



PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
IN  
*MANCHESTER.*



ΑΓΑΘΗ Δ'ΕΠΙΣ ΗΔΕ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΙΣ.



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## P R E F A C E.



**I**N laying before the Public the following selections from the Journals of the Board of Health, the Managers of that Institution, have not the most remote wish to revive the memory of animosities that have long ceased to exist. Painful to their feelings as were many of the productions in the controversy respecting the establishment of a House of Recovery, they have now the satisfaction to reflect, that in discussing the theory of contagious diseases, the minds of their fellow-townsmen were relieved from many fanciful and absurd prepossessions; that the propriety and urgency of the measures proposed became more generally understood; and that a more powerful interest was exerted for carrying them into effect than could have been expected, had their merit been, in the first instance, allowed to pass unquestioned. The success which attended the execution of this scheme, and the important benefits

which have resulted from it, having excited in the metropolis, and several of the principal towns throughout Great Britain and Ireland a very general desire to promote similar establishments, an unexpected demand was made for the papers contained in the present volume, copies of which in a detached state have been long unattainable. To comply therefore with the wishes of their correspondents, the Managers have been induced to authorize a re-publication of them in a form better adapted to ensure their preservation, and for general use. In respect to the productions of their opponents, it has been thought proper to admit no article which was not officially presented to the Board of Health; and on all occasions, as far as it was practicable, to exclude such as had only a temporary or local application.

Manchester, March 6, 1805.

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PROCEEDINGS  
AND  
OBSERVATIONS.

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*Manchester, January 7, 1796.*

AT a Meeting held this day at the Bridge-water Arms Inn, which was very numerous and respectable, to consider of proper means to secure the general health of the town and neighbourhood of Manchester from the contagion of an infectious fever, which has long prevailed amongst the manufacturing poor :

T. B. BAYLEY, Esq. in the Chair.

*It was Resolved,*

I. That a committee be now appointed to superintend the health of the poor in the towns of Manchester and Salford, and the adjacent country.

II. That this committee shall consist of the *Magistrates*, acting in, and for the division of Manchester :

The Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries of Manchester and Salford, and the neighbourhood :

The Boroughreeves, Constables, Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of Manchester and Salford for the time being :

The Committee of the Strangers Friend Society,  
for the time being :

And of the following Gentlemen, viz.

Sir Watts Horton, Bart.

William Robert Hay, Esq.

Mr. Marsland.

Mr. George Lee.

Mr. John Barton.

Mr. J. Leigh Phillips.

Mr. Robert Owen.

Mr. George Walker.

Mr. James Entwisle.

Mr. James Touchet.

Mr. C. F. Brandt.

Mr. Thomas Robinson.

Mr. Lees, of Fairfield.

Mr. Duck.

George Lloyd, Esq.

Robert James, Esq.

John Cross, Esq.

Mr. Robert Philips.

Mr. Thomas Hoyle.

Mr. George Philips.

Mr. J. Worthington, of Altringham.

Mr. George Worthington, Ditto.

Mr. James Bateman.

Rev. John Clowes, St. John's.

Rev. Samuel Hall.

Mr. John Kearsley.

Mr. Joseph Booth.



Rev. Dr. Bayley.  
Rev. Dr. Barnes.  
Mr. John Nash.  
Mr. John Jackson.  
Rev. Mr. Broomhead.  
Rev. Mr. Kenyon.  
Rev. Ralph Harrison.  
Rev. Joshua Brookes.  
Rev. John Gatcliffe.  
Rev. — Wadsworth, Ashton-under-line.  
Mr. Henry Lees, of Ditto.  
Mr. Joseph Mellor, of Ditto.  
Mr. John Brown, of Ditto.  
Mr. Whittenbury.  
Mr. Jonathan Beever.  
Rev. J. Vause.  
Mr. James Cooke.  
Mr. John Barrow.  
Mr. John Atkinson.  
Mr. Joseph Atkinson.  
Mr. Thomas Holland.  
Mr. Fletcher, of Ashton-under-line.  
Mr. William Creswell, of Fairfield.

III. That Mr. Thomas Bellott, Surgeon and Apothecary, at No. 45, in Hanging-ditch, Manchester, be appointed *Secretary* to the above Committee.

IV. That a subscription be opened for defraying the expences of the committee, and proper books prepared for receiving the same.

V. That the first meeting of the committee be on Wednesday the 13th of January instant, at six o'clock in the evening, at this house.

VI. That this meeting, understanding that exaggerated accounts have been circulated concerning the present low contagious fever, in the town of *Ashton-under-Lyne*, and its neighbourhood; request that the Minister and Churchwardens of that town, and the Overseers of the Poor of *Duckensfield*, do publish in the Manchester papers, an accurate statement of the number of the deaths that have been occasioned by that fever, and do further add in such publication, that it appears from the reports of the medical gentlemen in that neighbourhood, that the fever is at present abating.

VII. That the thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Percival, Dr. Eason, Dr. Ferriar, and the Medical Gentlemen of *Ashton-under-Lyne*, for their valuable papers this day communicated to this meeting, on the causes of infectious fevers, and the best means of their prevention.

VIII. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Chairman, for having brought forward, and for the manner in which he has conducted the business of the day.

*Signed by Order,*

THOS. BELLOTT, *Secretary.*

*Copy of Dr. Percival's Remarks.*

January 7th, 1796.

The objects of the Board of Health, are three-fold ;

I. To obviate the generation of diseases :

II. To prevent the spreading of them by contagion :

III. To shorten the duration of existing diseases, and to mitigate their evils, by affording the necessary aids and comforts to those who labour under them.

Under the first head are comprehended: The inspection and improvement of the general accommodations of the poor; the prohibition of such habitations as are so close, noisome, or damp, as to be incapable of being rendered tolerably salubrious; the removal of privies placed in improper situations; provision for white-washing and cleansing the houses of the poor, twice every year; attention to their ventilation, by windows with open casements, &c.; the inspection of cotton-mills, or other factories, at stated seasons, with regular returns of the condition, as to health, clothing, appearance, and behaviour of the persons employed in them; of the time allowed for their refreshment at breakfast and dinner; of the number of hours assigned for labour; and of the accommodations of those who are parochial appren-

tices, or who are not under the immediate direction of their parents or friends ; the limitation and regulation of lodging-houses, or the establishment of caravauseras for passengers, or those who come to seek employment unrecommended or unknown ; the establishment of public warm and cold baths ; provision for particular attention to the cleaning the streets which are inhabited by the poor, and for the speedy removal of dunghills, and every species of filth ; the diminution, as far as is practicable, of other noxious effluvia, such as those which arise from the work-houses of the fell-monger, the yards of the tanner, and the slaughter-houses of the butcher ; the superintendence of the several markets ; with a view to the prevention of the sale of putrid flesh, or fish, and of unsound flour, or other vegetable productions.

Under the second general head are included ;—the speedy removal of those who are attacked with symptoms of fever, from the cotton-mills, or factories, to the habitations of their parents or friends, or to commodious houses, which should be set apart for the reception of the sick in the different districts of Manchester ; the requisite attentions to preclude unnecessary communications with the sick in the houses wherein they are confined, and to the subsequent cleansing and ventilation of their chambers, bedding, and apparel ; and the allowance of a sufficient time for perfect recovery, and complete purification of their clothes, before they return to

their work, or mix with their companions in labour.

Under the third head are comprehended ;—Medical attendance ; the care of nurses ; and supplies of medicine, wine, appropriate diet, fuel, and clothing.

I. Enquire into the powers of the committee of police, and whether they be not competent both to originate and effectuate the proposed reforms :

II. Or whether a board of health might not with more propriety, because with more legal authority, be appointed by the committee of police, to act under their auspices, and to hold from time to time a communication with them ?

III. Or might not a board of health be nominated by the magistrates of the quarter sessions, and act under their auspices in connection with the committee of police ?



*Copy of a Letter from Dr. Haygarth, of Chester,  
to Dr. Percival.*

January 6th, 1796.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

YOU desire me to communicate some observations on the best means of stopping the progress of the low fever at present very prevalent in Manchester, and its neighbourhood.



You may remember that in the Chester Infirmary we have, for the last twelve years, received all infectious fever patients, that require our assistance, into the fever wards, one for each sex, appropriated to this purpose.

This institution arose from the speculations, which you know had engaged my attention, on the nature of contagion. Numerous facts having proved that a person liable to receive the small-pox was not infected by a patient in the distemper, when placed at a very little distance, I next considered the nature of the contagion, which produces putrid fevers ;—I soon discovered that their infectious atmosphere was limited to much narrower extent than even the small-pox. So manifestly I observed this to be the case, that in a clean, well aired room of a moderate size, the contagious poison is so much diluted with fresh air, that it very rarely produces the distemper, even in nurses exposed to all the putrid miasms of the breath, perspiration, fæces, &c. Whereas, in the close, dirty, and small rooms of the poor, the whole family generally catch the fever. Hence we may conclude, that in a well aired and clean apartment, the air is seldom so fully impregnated with the poison, as to acquire an infectious quality.

On these considerations, I ventured to propose the admission of typhous fevers into the attic story, on one side of our infirmary, to be separated into two wards. From the experience of a dozen years,

I am warranted to maintain the safety of this measure, if conducted under very easy practicable regulations. During this period, it never was suspected that infection has been communicated to a single patient in other parts of the house.

Farther, I maintain that an establishment of this kind is indispensably necessary in all infirmaries, to preserve them from what is called the hospital fever. You may remember that I have collected a considerable number of cases to prove, that typhous contagion, in some instances, remains in the body many days, and even weeks, in a *latent* state, before the symptoms of fever commence. Patients, ill of other disorders, are admitted into the Infirmary from infectious houses, where they have caught the poison. The fever begins *after* their admission, and frequently infects others in the same ward ;—when there is not a due attention to fresh air and cleanliness ; or when several patients, thus previously infected, are admitted into the same ward. But, in the Chester Infirmary every fever patient, as soon as observed, is immediately removed into the fever wards, so as to preserve all the rest of the house perfectly free from contagion.

During this war, Chester has been unusually exposed to the danger of putrid infectious fevers. Many new raised regiments, coming from Ireland, with numerous recruits, taken out of jails, remained in Chester for a few weeks, after their voyage. Great numbers of these soldiers, and

their women, were ill of putrid fevers, and were immediately received into the fever wards of our Infirmary. If such contagious patients had been distributed in the public houses, and poor lodging houses, through this city, the consequences to many of our inhabitants must have been dreadful.

By taking out of a house the first person who sickens of a fever, we preserve the rest of the family from infection, together with an indefinite number of their neighbours, who would otherwise catch the infection. At this very time, when the inhabitants of Manchester, and many other places, are afflicted with a fatal contagious epidemic, only two patients are now in our fever wards, and both convalescent: and the Apothecary to the infirmary, who attends the out poor of the whole city, informs me that he has now not a single fever patient under his care.

Sometimes, but very seldom, our two fever wards have been somewhat crowded with patients. I should judge that about four or six spacious wards might be sufficient for Manchester, though the inhabitants are much more populous, and perhaps more liable to fevers, from their unhealthy dwellings, occupations, &c.

To one of your sagacious discernment, it would be superfluous to say, that the observations above advanced are founded upon such numerous facts, that they must give conviction to every impartial in-

quirer, not only of the safety, but of the efficacy, of the proposed regulations.

I am confident that our two fever wards do ten times more real good in the prevention of misery, than all the other parts of the infirmary.



*Dr. Ferriar's Remarks.*

GENTLEMEN,

AT the request of some of your number, who originally proposed this meeting, I submit to your consideration a few remarks towards the formation of a board, or committee for superintending the health of the manufacturing poor, in Manchester and Salford. A principal object of this committee must be, that of diminishing the frequency of the epidemic fever, which has so often alarmed us in this place, which is now very prevalent in some parts of the town, and has spread itself to a very unusual extent in some of the neighbouring towns. The circumstances which produce and propagate this disease seem to require more immediately the interference of a public body, and these once remedied, the general health of the poor must be greatly improved.

Having already published my sentiments pretty fully on this subject, I shall remark, without entering into any previous reasoning, that the principal

sources of fever among our poor, are lodging houses, cellars, cotton mills, and the incautious intercourse of the poor with each other in places infected.

I. Respecting lodging houses, I have observed elsewhere, that the most desirable means of prevention would be to subject them to licences, which would bring them under the controul of the magistrate. At present, as the town is much less crowded than it was in 1792, the mischief arising from these houses is less ; and until the committee can acquire the proper powers, it would perhaps be sufficient to be at the expence of white-washing such places as shall be reported to be infected and dirty, or when they are found to be over crowded, to prevail on some of the lodgers to remove, which may be readily done.

II. The number of damp, and very ill ventilated cellars inhabited in many parts of the town, is a most extensive and permanent evil.

It may be necessary to explain to gentlemen who have not visited such places, that they each consist of two rooms under ground, the front apartment of which is used as a kitchen, and though frequently noxious by its dampness, and closeness, is greatly preferable to the back-room: the latter has only one small window, which, though on a level with the outer ground, is near the roof of the cellar, it is often patched with boards or paper, and in its best state, is so much covered with mud, as to admit very little either of air or light. In this cell,



the beds of the whole family, sometimes consisting of seven or eight, are placed. The floor of this room is often unpaved: the beds are fixed on the damp earth. But the floor, even when paved, is always damp. In such places, where a candle is required, even at noon-day, to examine a patient, I have seen the sick without bedsteads, lying on rags; they can seldom afford straw.

This deplorable state of misery becomes frequently the origin, and certainly supports in a great degree the progress, of infectious fevers. I have been able, in many instances, to trace the infection from cellar to cellar, and to say where it might have been stopped by prudent management on the part of the infected family. But it is likewise very difficult to eradicate the fever, when it seizes a family thus situated. It generally attacks them all in succession, and the convalescents, from their confinement in the midst of infection, have frequent relapses, attended with increasing danger, so that the disease continues in the same spot for several months together. The recovery even of those who do not relapse, is also tedious, and imperfect, beyond the conception of any who have not experienced cases of this nature. The want of proper nurses must be added as none of the least evils attending this unfortunate class of people. I have no hesitation in asserting that many lives are annually lost, from this cause alone. It is extremely difficult at present to procure a nurse of good cha-

racter upon any terms, and it is often necessary to employ persons on whom little dependence can be placed, that the sick may not be entirely destitute of assistance.

Great advantages would therefore be derived from removing the infected, and in some instances, perhaps, the whole family, from such dreadful habitations as I have described, into a clean, airy house, which should be provided by the committee, till their own cellars could be white-washed, and sweetened by slaking quick-lime on the floors. It is a question for the decision of the committee, whether they would prefer renting a house, or building a fever-ward for this purpose. I confess that I should incline to the latter, for these reasons :

I. In the erection of a fever-ward, situation, air, and convenience would be better consulted : in renting a house, some of these very important objects might be unavoidably superseded.

II. Upon such a permanent establishment, one or more women of decent character might be induced to undertake the office of nurses.

III. By thus bringing the worst, and most neglected cases under one roof, the chance of spreading infection would be diminished, while attention to the patients on the part of the nurses would be better secured, than if the patients were dispersed in different houses, as, in reality, it would be very difficult to obtain a complete house, upon any rent, for such a purpose.

To explain this observation, I must beg leave to repeat a circumstance, which I have stated in my last volume of Medical Essays. Previous to the building of our Dispensary, when a patient happened to be seized with an infectious fever in the infirmary, the disease was apt to spread to an alarming degree, so as to require a general dismissal of the patients. But since a few rooms have been added to the Dispensary, for the purpose of secluding persons thus attacked, from the rest of the patients, though bad fevers have been accidentally introduced, yet by removing the patients on the first attack into the fever-ward, the disease has always been prevented from extending, without the necessity of dismissing a single patient.

In like manner, I conceive that by building a fever-ward, in each of the infirmary districts, and removing into them the worst cases from the worst houses, the progress of infection would be materially checked, and a great quantity of disease and mortality would **annually** be prevented. This plan would also give **additional** success to the labours of the infirmary physicians. It would add the chances arising from cleanliness, free ventilation, and careful nursing, to the efficacy of medicines.

IV. In a separate building, the access of unnecessary visitors would be better prevented. It may give the committee a clearer idea of the extent of this danger, to mention, that an elderly woman, just recovering from the fever, informed me she had

fifteen children, all settled in the town, and all of whom had undergone the fever within these two months.

In a building of this nature, it would be highly useful to have woollen dresses for convalescents, or persons belonging to removed families, that the clothes of the infected may be purified by stoving or scouring. Shoe-baths would also be required, for medical purposes, as well as for cleanliness. It would be greatly to the advantage of the manufacturing poor, if the custom of wearing flannel next the skin were introduced among them. It would counteract, in many instances, the bad effects of cold and dampness, and would prevent many fevers and rheumatic affections. More frequent changes of apparel, which conduce to health as well as to luxury, might perhaps be procured to the poor, by encouraging the establishment of clothes-clubs, which some of them have begun to form among themselves.

In manufacturing towns, the attention of the poor is diverted from cleanliness by the value of their time. To wash the linen of a large family appears hard labour, to a woman who can earn a subsistence by different employment. The mother of a family is therefore easily induced to let her children become very dirty, by the temptation of gaining money in a manufactory. Perhaps the distribution of pecuniary rewards to mothers, whose

children shall be sent clean to the different manufactories, would produce a good effect.

What I now propose to the committee can be regarded but as a measure palliative of the most urgent evils, for the only method of furnishing the poor with healthy habitations, which should effectually stifle the germs of infection, would be that of erecting small houses, at the public expence, on the plan of barracks, or caserns, to be let at small rents, or gratuitously, according to the circumstances of the persons applying.

At present, perhaps it would be most expedient for the committee to try the effect of a single fever-ward, in some quarter of the town where infection more frequently prevails. In a town like this, such buildings can never become entirely useless, even if the plans of the committee should extend to the length at which I have hinted.

The want of proper sewers in several of the streets, and the offal of slaughter-houses, left to putrify before the doors in several places, are nuisances which deserve the serious attention of the committee.

On the subject of the propagation of infection in cotton-mills, it may be necessary to observe, that although it has been supposed that fever may be imported in the cotton, and though this opinion does not seem improbable in itself, yet no direct proof of fevers originating from this source has ever been obtained.



On the appearance of the present epidemic at Ashton-under-Line, an alarm of this kind was spread, because the fever broke out in the pickers' room of a manufactory there, but I am informed, from very respectable authority, that the infection was actually carried thither from Manchester, by a girl who went to be employed as a picker at Ashton. I apprehend that the mischief arising from some cotton-mills, as they are at present managed, results from,

- I. The custom of working all night ;
- II. Negligence in washing the floors and frames ;
- III. Negligence respecting the personal cleanliness of the work-people, and especially of the children ;

IV. Imprudence in permitting convalescents, or persons coming from infected houses, to resume their work, with their clothes saturated with infection ;

V. Want of proper ventilation, particularly during the night-labour, when the air of the room is rendered additionally impure by the candles. With regard to the three first articles, I am uncertain how far the committee could with propriety interfere.

If the proprietors and overseers of manufactories could be interested in the views of the committee, very advantageous regulations might be formed. The custom of working all night totally frustrates every attempt to ventilate the mills thoroughly, while the dirtiness of the persons employed renders



them more disposed to receive the infection of fever. This custom should if possible be discontinued.

The other circumstances might be easily regulated by the overseers, who would perhaps be induced to pay more attention to them if premiums were held out to overseers who preserved a given degree of health among the persons under their care.

The remonstrances of so respectable a body as a committee of this nature, may also be expected to have a proper influence, when they call the attention of the proprietors of manufactories, to practices evidently destructive of health and life.

The great difference in the healthiness of different cotton-mills, which it would be invidious to point out here, but which may be easily learnt from the lists of home-patients kept at the infirmary, for the last five years, sufficiently proves the benefits of care respecting the circumstances I have mentioned, and the danger of inattention.

The readmission of convalescents into manufactories, while they are in a state capable of infecting others, is an obvious cause of increasing and perpetuating fevers. To prevent this, it would be proper to retain patients in the fever-wards, till their clothes and persons should be sufficiently purified, and to caution the overseers of manufactories against the reception of irregular patients, who

might return to their employment without leave from their physicians.

A similar hazard, which arises from incautious visits, may be most effectually counteracted by regulation in the fever-wards. It would be cruelty to refuse access to near relations, in dangerous cases, but they might be taught to lessen the danger of receiving infection, by placing themselves between the patient's bed and the window, by averting the face while the patient speaks, and by carefully avoiding to sit down upon the bed.

All linen belonging to the patients should be washed in the fever-wards, for the same reason.

The practice of smoking tobacco has been sometimes recommended as preventive of infection: whatever may be the effect of the herb properly prepared, I am confident that the acrid, irritating composition used by labouring people, is more likely to excite, than to prevent disease; and I am persuaded that I have seen complaints in the stomach and bowels repeatedly occasioned by its use.

It would be very useful, if, among other important rules, contained in the report of the physicians respecting cotton-mills, published in 1782, that concerning the burial of the dead could be enforced. That the bodies of such as die of the disease should "be wrapped in pitched linen, and buried as soon as decency and propriety will permit."

I have often seen interment unreasonably delayed, to the great annoyance of the survivors, and even of the neighbourhood.

After this sketch of the objects which more immediately require the attention of a committee of health, permit me to add a few words on the constitution of the committee itself.

As this institution, it is to be hoped, will prove permanent, care must be taken to divide the labour attending it, lest the members should be discouraged by fatigue from prosecuting their design.

For this purpose, a sufficient number of active persons, members of the general committee, should be appointed in each of the infirmary districts, who should meet once or oftener every week, to examine the state of health, and regulate the fever-wards in their departments.

These sub-committees should make regular reports every three months, to the general committee, of the number of sick in each district, and the nature of their diseases, the latter of which may be obtained with ease from our lists of home-patients, which are always open to the inspection of the trustees. To these reports they may add any remarks that occur to them, respecting the existence, or prevention, of noxious causes.

Whether these sub-committees can transact the business of enquiring into the actual state of the sick, by personal visits, in consequence of application from every person recommending a home-

patient, or whether the appointment of inspectors would be necessary, to seek out objects in distress, from the information of their neighbours, must be matter of consideration for the general committee.

The propriety of removing home-patients into the fever-wards, should be determined by the physician of the district ; but as the system of the infirmary is already very complex, I think all applications to the committee should come from the recommenders.

Every kind of charitable relief administered to the sick should be procured in the same manner ; for we have found, by the experience of last year, that when the faculty at the infirmary are known to distribute money, or other necessities, the charity becomes oppressed with false claims, which intercept the expenditure and attention due to real sickness.

For this reason, I am of opinion that no physician or surgeon of the infirmary should be nominated on the general committee.

By devolving the care of providing for the sick, in other respects, besides medical attendance, upon the recommenders, more general attention to the wants of the poor will be excited, the consequences of which must be salutary to every class of society.

When fever-wards are established, it will occasion very little additional expence to provide a certain quantity of good broth, made from fresh meat, and vegetables, for the convalescents, the

infirm, and decrepid, to be distributed three times a week.

To this distribution none should be entitled otherwise than by orders from the sub-committees, renewable at their meetings. Probably ten gallons a day would be an ample supply of broth, for the wants of a whole district.

The particular details of the provision for the different wants of patients, will be best regulated in the sub-committees.

A good model for this purpose may be found in the plan formed by my friend Mr. J. L. Philips, for the general relief of the poor, during the severity of last winter.

The obvious extension of the cares of the committee, to a superintendence of the morals of the poor, as intimately connected with the preservation of their health, comprehends a variety of most important objects, which cannot be obtained without application to the legislature of the country. Whenever that shall be deemed proper, it will afford me the greatest satisfaction to communicate any remarks which my professional intercourse with the sick poor has enabled me to make.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. FERRIAR.



*Manchester, January 13th, 1796.*



AT a Meeting of the Committee held this day  
at the Bridgewater Arms Inn ;

*It was resolved,*

I. That this committee, deeply impressed with a sense that the present contagious fever is of a most alarming nature, and is such as calls for every exertion that can be made for its speedy prevention, as well as for the adoption of such regulations as may best conduce to the prevention of its fatal effects in future ; yet, understanding that *groundless* alarms have been circulated in the country respecting its nature, think it proper to declare to the public, that from the opinions of all the medical gentlemen who have favoured this meeting with their attendance, they are enabled to state, that the *nature* of the present fever is not different from that which has usually been prevalent in this neighbourhood at this season of the year.

II. That it is expedient that one or more feverwards be provided for the accommodation of the poor afflicted with fever, within the districts limited for the home-patients of the infirmary.

*Ordered, That*

T. B. Bayley, Esq.

Mr. Thomas Robinson,

Mr. Joseph Booth,

Mr. James Bateman,

Dr. Ferriar,

Dr. Bardsley,

Dr. Holne,



be a committee to look for such situation, or situations, as may to them appear best adapted for that purpose, and provide themselves with proper plans and estimates respecting the same.

Ordered, That the said last mentioned committee be requested to communicate with a special general board of the infirmary on this interesting subject, and communicate the result thereof to the next meeting.

III. That the thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Haygarth, of Chester, for his valuable letter, communicated by Dr. Percival; and to Dr. Bardsley, and Mr. Henry, for their respective communications read at this meeting.

IV. That the next meeting of the committee be held here, on Monday the 25th instant, at six o'clock in the evening.

V. That this committee do request the physicians of the infirmary to deliver in at the next meeting the list of fever patients.

*Signed by order,*

THOs. BELLOTT, Sec.

*Dr. Bardsley's Remarks.*

Jan. 13th, 1796.

THE rise and increase of the contagious fever, which generally prevails among the poor in Manchester, may, in a considerable degree, be attributed to the employment of the children in those cotton-mills, where little or no attention is paid to ventilation, and cleanliness; and especially where the children are obliged to work during the night.

The following are the principal reasons, upon which the above opinion is grounded.

I. This fever is most generally prevalent and fatal at the commencement of, and during the winter season, when from the difference of temperature between an heated and close room, and the external air, the tender constitutions of children are peculiarly liable to be affected by such a transition.

II. Children who work all night, feel this change in an eminent degree, as they pass suddenly from an heated and impure air, when their bodies have been fatigued by labour, exhausted by inanition, and want of sleep, into the raw and chilling atmosphere of a winter's morning. Thus colds are generated, and the foundation laid for fevers of the worst kind.

III. That portion of sleep which is necessary to recruit the human body in all its stages; but peculiarly during its growth and increase in the state of childhood, cannot be enjoyed by children who

consume the whole night in labour; for, on account of the improvidence, or poverty of their parents, there is seldom more than one bed in a family, and the poor child is obliged to throw himself sleepless and exhausted (generally with his clothes on) upon this bed, which has just contained four or five persons; whose clamour and bustle, added to the noise and disturbance from without doors, must deprive him of the chance of gaining that refreshing and quiet sleep, so necessary to recruit the vigour, and sustain the health of the constitution.

IV. If it be the case in some instances, that a bed and a quiet apartment are provided for the child to sleep in during the day, yet, we must consider the temptation he is exposed to, of robbing himself of some portion of the time allotted to sleep, in order that he may appropriate it to those amusements incident to his age.

V. It has been universally the opinion of the highest medical authorities, that (in the northern climates at least) sleep is more advantageous during the night than in the day; and it has been observed by the same authorities, that a *slight* diurnal fever may be observed by attending to the state of the pulse towards the evening, which the sleep at night almost always removes.

This evening exacerbation of the pulse attends a state of health as well as disease.

VI. With respect to the cruelty of the practice, its immorality as tending to debase the human kind, by depriving it of opportunities to acquire any portion of knowledge and information, during those hours of the day when schools are open, and other instruction likely to be given,—I shall wave dwelling upon these points,—The consideration of the subject, and the means of affording redress, are certainly objects worthy the attention of those to whom the morals of the people are peculiarly intrusted.



*Mr. Henry's Remarks.*

Jan. 13th, 1796.

THE air which forms the atmosphere is found, from modern discoveries, to consist of two parts, namely, pure or vital air, forming from 27 to 28 parts of the whole mass; and another kind of air or gas, called by modern chemists azote, or air destructive of life, forming the remaining 72 or 73 portions. This composition is doubtless that which is best adapted for the purposes of respiration, the animal frame suffering materially from the long continued use even of air, which is much purer than this standard: yet it is the former or pure part, which contributes to the support of life, to the combustion of inflammable bodies, and to many other important processes in nature. For when

atmospheric air is deprived of this principle, it is no longer capable of sustaining life, or flame. The vital part is continually abstracted by the breathing of animals ; for air containing the above proportions, has the vital part diminished, on being inspired and again expired from the lungs, from about 28 to 10 parts ; and, by being repeatedly breathed, may be so exhausted, that, a small animal being exposed to the remainder, shall immediately perish. The residuum will be found to consist of the impure portion undiminished, united to a small quantity of gas equally deleterious, formed by the union of the pure air with the coaly part of the blood, which is thrown off as excrementitious. If to air thus injured, the due quantity of vital air, which may be procured from various substances, be added, it will be restored, and again rendered fit for the purpose of life.

Hence it is, that whenever a number of people assembled in a room, consume a quantity of the pure part of the air, greater than is supplied from without, or the escape of the injured air is prevented, they will become diseased, in proportion to their continuance in the room ; and the frequency of the repetition of confinement in such air.

The sad catastrophe in the black hole of Calcutta, and the late unhappy destruction of above fifty persons shut up under the hatches of a transport, are instances of the *strongest* kind of the poisonous effects of confined air ; and its effects in the pro-



duction of fevers of a putrid type, are too frequently evident in prisons, hospitals, and crowded factories.

Air is also injured, in a similar manner, though smaller degree, by the burning of lamps and candles; and by the exposure of all animal and vegetable substances in a putrescent state, and even if the same bodies, though perfectly sweet, be exposed to a certain degree of heat or motion.

Having premised these facts; it must be obvious to every one who considers the great number of persons employed in one room in a cotton-factory, of lamps burning in the night; the quantity of the surface of oil exposed on the machinery, the exhalations of animal matter by perspiration, and from the sordid clothes of the work-people, that every precaution will be necessary to preserve the health of the persons, daily exposed to such unfavourable circumstances.

The above statement, too, is made on the most favourable suppositions. None of those adventitious circumstances are alluded to, which continually act in some, and occasionally affect all of them. Among the former are the close, confined, and dirty situations of the factories; the offensiveness of the privies, the uncleanness of the rooms, and machinery, and the rancid state of the oil employed in it, and in the lamps. Among the latter the contagious effluvia, conveyed by the work-people in their clothes, from the houses in which



fever exists, and infecting those who are so unfortunate as to be stationed near to, and especially to the leeward of the contagious matter.

I am aware that difficulties attend the complete ventilation of these buildings. That currents of air, or air loaded with moisture, are injurious to the spinning of the thread; and that the common modes of conveying warm air, through heated iron tubes, afford it in a burnt and injured state. The hazard from the fires employed, is also an objection to the obtaining such air.

But surely stoves might be so contrived that the fuel might be burnt without danger to the building; and the air be conveyed through substances, such as earthen tubes, without suffering any injury in its passage.

This air might also be conveyed into the rooms, without hazard of affecting the threads by its current; and it might also be highly improved, and especially on particular occasions, by the following process.

Let an iron vessel of an appropriate shape, be filled with a given quantity of manganesc, in proportion to the size of the room or rooms to be supplied. With this vessel let a tube communicate, which may branch out, if requisite, so as to pass into different parts of the building.

When the vessel is exposed to a red heat, a large quantity of pure or vital air will be separated, and pass into the room, and contribute essentially to the

restoration of the injured air. The price of manganese is moderate; and the expence will be the more inconsiderable, as the manganese on being afterwards exposed to the open air, having the property of absorbing its pure part, becomes in a short time fit to be used again for the same purposes.

In the ventilation of rooms a common error prevails, that the injured air is so light as to ascend to the upper part.

The difference between the specific gravity of the two constituent parts of common air is very small; and the fixed air, or carbonic acid, which results from the combination above alluded to, is considerably heavier than air.

From some experiments made by a Mr. Reid, and related in the last volume of Philosophical Transactions, with what he calls a doubler of electricity, it appears that air, loaded with animal exhalations, either by respiration or otherwise, is reduced from a positive to a negative electrical state. And his experiments also evince the difficulty with which the air is removed, except the current be directed from the windward; and in such a manner as to scour, as it were, every part of the building. For he found that after those parts which were near to the doors, or windows, were restored to a positive state, those in the remote parts remained still negative.

Hence appears the necessity of having the entry of fresh air formed through various channels; and

of time being given, by withdrawing the contaminating causes, for a complete renovation of the atmosphere within the building.

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*Heads of Resolutions for the consideration of the Board of Health. By Dr. Percival.*

January 25, 1796.

IT has already been stated, that the objects of the present institution are—to prevent the generation of diseases ;—to obviate the spreading of them by contagion, and to shorten the duration of those which exist, by affording the necessary aids and comforts to the sick. In the prosecution of this interesting undertaking, the board have had their attention particularly directed to the large cotton-factories, established in the town and neighbourhood of Manchester: And they feel it a duty incumbent on them, to lay before the public the result of their inquiries.

I. It appears that the children and others, who work in the large cotton-factories, are peculiarly disposed to be affected by the contagion of fever; and that when such infection is received, it is rapidly propagated, not only amongst those who are crowded together in the same apartments, but in the families, and the neighbourhoods, to which they belong.

II. The large factories are generally injurious to the constitutions of those employed in them, even where no particular diseases prevail, from the close confinement which is enjoined, from the debilitating effects of hot or impure air; and from the want of the active exercises, which nature points out as essential in childhood and youth, to invigorate the system, and to fit our species for the employments, and for the duties of manhood.

III. The untimely labour of the night, and the protracted labour of the day, with respect to *children*, not only tends to diminish future expectations, as to the general sum of life, and industry, by impairing the strength, and destroying the vital stamina, of the rising generation, but it too often gives encouragement to idleness, extravagance, and profligacy, in the parents; who, contrary to the order of nature, subsist by the oppression of their offspring.

IV. It appears that the children employed in the factories are generally debarred from all opportunities of education, and from moral or religious instruction.

V. From the excellent regulations, which subsist in several cotton-factories, it appears that many of these evils may, in a considerable degree, be obviated. We are therefore warranted by experience, and are assured we shall have the support of the liberal proprietors of these factories, in proposing an application for parliamentary aid, (if other me-

Methods appear not likely to effect the purpose) to establish a general system of laws, for the wise, humane, and *equal* government of all such works.

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*Remarks and Observations, by A. B.*

January 9th, 1796.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING read with pleasure, in this day's paper, an account of the benevolent design, of which you have the honour to be promoters; I beg leave to offer a few observations *on the prevention of infection*.

In order to avoid infection, it is necessary that we should be acquainted with those avenues by which it has access to the body; this being at present a controversial point, though of infinite importance to mankind, every attempt to elucidate and explain it, does, I trust, carry with it its own apology; for without some assurance of this kind, all our endeavours must be of small avail; it is this only can give stability to our exertions, and ultimately crown them with success.

The stomach is always first affected in \* *casual* or *accidental infection*, or some part intimately con-

\* It is different with infection communicated from an external part, as by inoculation, in which the stomach is many times not at all affected, and when it is, not in that degree which takes place in casual, or accidental infection, only partaking of the general disposition of the system, without any particular irritation.



nected with it; as the head, betwixt which and the stomach there is always a very strong sympathy, indeed the head is often affected from an irritation of the stomach, and *vice versa* an irritation of the brain produces vomiting; the head itself is often symptomatically affected even before the stomach (from whence this affection originates) shall be discovered to be indisposed, therefore whether the effects of contagion are evidenced first in the head or stomach is of little consequence, as proceeding from the same cause. In the attack of all contagions, these are almost always the parts primarily affected; therefore it is reasonable to suppose that infection is in most instances first received into the stomach, from whence it is afterwards communicated to the rest of the body, else why do vomits given to infected persons frequently prevent the coming on of the disease, even under circumstances where we have no doubt but such would otherwise have been the case? Abundance of instances of this kind have convinced me that they very frequently have this effect; therefore in these cases the infection must have been rejected, and thereby prevented from producing its effects on the constitution.—But it may be objected, that infection is very often received into the stomach, without producing any effect: I allow it, and happy for us that it is so; for it seems to be only under certain circumstances that infection can be absorbed, and enter the course of the circulation, without which



I am inclined to believe, it never produces any permanent effect ; therefore all our exertions must be used previous to this taking place. The disposition most favourable to infection seems to be that of *craving or appetite* ; and experience hath fully proved, that persons with an empty stomach are most liable to become infected ; for the absorbents being then disappointed of their supply, seize upon that which at another time would not have been taken up : in such a state, there is generally a greater flow of saliva, which is favourable to the operation of infection, by mixing with it in the mouth ; *indigestible food*, or such as requires a long time to digest, by disappointing the stomach, may be productive of the same effect.

*Fear*, or any thing that depresses nervous energy, lessening the natural irritability of the body, has likewise this effect, by suffering that to enter the circulation, which would otherwise have been rejected ; but to render this a little more intelligible, as a certain degree of irritability is necessary for the preservation of the body, to enable it to resist the attacks that are made upon it, should this then be lessened by any means (which is known to be the effect of fear, and the other depressing passions of the mind, as grief, despair, &c.) those particles which, from their irritation, could not before have passed into the circulation, will at length be enabled to do it.

I shall consider next the manner in which infection is conveyed into the stomach. There is no other way but by the mouth ; where, being received from the air destined for the purpose of respiration, and which is continually passing through the mouth, it becomes mixt with the saliva, and is taken down into the stomach ; and there is no doubt that a great deal of contagion is in this manner every day disposed of in towns like this, where fever is always prevalent in some quarter or other, the effluvia mixing with the air ; but being then in a diluted state, and incapable of producing effect ; for “ contagions are never found to act but when “ near to the sources from whence they arise ; that “ is, either near to the bodies of men from whence “ they immediately issue, or near to some sub- “ stances, which, as having been near to the bodies “ of men, are imbrued with their effluvia, and in “ which substances they are sometimes retained in “ an active state for a very long time.” All porous substances retain infection ; and especially such as are of a light texture, as cotton, whether manufactured or otherwise ; the fibres of which, having a disposition to repel one another, do leave spaces for the lodgment of infectious particles : woollens and worsted are attended with this inconvenience, though I think not in so great a degree, the individual fibre of the article being coarser. Infection by this means is screened from the action of the air,

by which it would otherwise be diluted, and finally carried off. Linen and silk, being of a more compact texture, are not so liable to this inconvenience; the glazing of cottons, by consolidating their substance, improves them in this respect. But to return to the subject, having said that contagion is for the most part received by the mouth, and from thence conveyed into the stomach, where its operation is first exerted, our next object is to ascertain by what means its introduction into the stomach may be prevented, in which consists the prevention of infection.

Since the saliva is the vehicle of contagion, it should be recommended to all those who are attending on the sick.

I. Not to let down their saliva when near to the infected, viz. such saliva as shall be secreted whilst they are exposed to infection.

II. Never to go into the rooms of the infected, if it can be dispensed with, either when hungry, or just before meals.

III. Never to eat, drink, or sleep in such rooms.

IV. To possess themselves with all possible confidence, as the surest way of resisting infection.

V. To support the natural irritability of the body by wine, and a generous diet.

VI. To wash the mouth after exposure to infection, and with nurses this precaution should always be observed before meals.

VII. To take an emetic in case of sickness, or headache coming on to any extent ; for there is no occasion in slight indispositions of this sort, which often arise from other trifling causes.

VIII. Those who are unwell, should never be suffered to come near the sick ; being more particularly liable to infection at that time.

IX. Guarding against moisture ; since contagion, under mixture of this kind, is rendered more difficult to be carried off by the air ; therefore, wetting the rooms of infected persons is strictly improper, except it be with such fluids as possess a correcting quality ; as acids, white-wash, &c.

The acid of vinegar is best adapted to this purpose ; it evaporates in a very moderate heat, and diffuses itself throughout the room, and, I think, is often of great service, not only in fevers of a putrid type, but likewise in all infectious fevers. The concentrated vinegar is best adapted to this purpose, being freed from the superfluous *water*, the evaporation of *which* along with the vinegar, is always prejudicial. The best of this kind that I have seen, is prepared by Mr. Henry : a very little is sufficient for the purpose, and may be sprinkled in different parts of the room.

Quicklime should be exposed in broad shallow vessels, and no more water added than is sufficient to slake it, or make it of a thick consistence ; it must be stirred from time to time, in order to expose fresh surfaces to the action of the air.

The foregoing observations being founded on facts, are such as, I trust, will be useful to those who either for humanity, or from necessity, are exposed to the hazard of infection.

I am, &c.

A. B.



*Hints from Dr. Garnett, communicated by  
Dr. Percival.*

February 3d, 1796:

DEAR SIR,

IF you think the following hints may have any tendency to alleviate the sufferings of mankind, and prevent the progress of an infection, which now rages with so much violence, I will thank you to communicate them to the *Board of Health*; and, if they should think them worthy of publication in the newspapers, or in any other manner, they are much at their service; if not, they will have the goodness to accept the intention for the deed.

I am, &c.

T. GARNETT.

If the air contained in a phial, be rendered offensive by putrid animal and vegetable substances, it may almost instantly be made sweet by dropping into the phial a few drops of *oxygenated muriatic*



*acid* ; or more effectually still, by introducing into it a small quantity of oxygenated muriatic gas.

This experiment may be easily made ; and it will be found that the air will, in this way, be deprived of the most putrid taint possible. Morveau and Berthollet have found, that if oxygenated muriatic gas be disengaged in a dissecting room, the bad smell from the subject will be corrected for a time ; and that if the subject be washed with oxygenated muriatic acid, it will exhale no bad smell for a considerable time. These curious, but well ascertained facts, naturally lead us to enquire into the action of the oxygenated muriatic acid, in correcting the putrid effluvia.

It is now well known, that almost all the putrid smells disengaged by putrifying substances, are owing to the extrication of inflammable air, or hydrogen gas, loaded with some or all of the three following substances, sulphur, phosphorus, or ammonia ; and these substances do not give out any very disagreeable smell, except when dissolved in hydrogen gas ; but in that state we know the smell to be very unpleasant.

Sulphurated hydrogen gas, or hepatic air, smells very disagreeably ; but the hydrogen gas in which phosphorus has been dissolved, often smells most intolerably, resembling the refuse of blubber. The superabundant oxygen of the muriatic acid, unites with the hydrogen, and forms water ; and the sulphur and phosphorus being no longer in a state of

solution, become concrete, and the bad smell disappears.

Though it is not yet proved, it seems very likely, from the experiments of Mr. Wall and others, that the effluvia from the human body communicating infection, is hydrogen gas, charged with some animal substances.

Is it not natural, from analogy, to conclude, that if these were deprived of their solubility in hydrogen gas, they would become innocent? and may we not reasonably suppose, that the oxygenated muriatic gas will deprive them, as well as other putrid effluvia, of their solubility?

It certainly, I think, deserves a trial, which may be made at a very small expence, in the following manner.

Take an ounce of the black oxyd of manganese in powder, and mix with it a quarter of a pound of common salt; put this mixture into an earthen vessel, and place it upon a chafing dish of coals in the room where the person labours under an infectious complaint; then pour upon it two ounces of sulphuric (vitriolic) acid, diluted with the same quantity of water.

Oxygenated muriatic acid gas will be instantly disengaged, and perceived in all parts of the room, and will at least destroy any putrid or offensive smell; and I am inclined to hope, that it will likewise correct the contagious effluvia.

When this gas is extricated in too great quantity, it will excite a cough ; but I think that will not be the case with the quantity I have mentioned ; if it should, a less portion must be used, or the mixture may be made without heat ; but we know that bleachers are continually inhaling this gas in considerable quantity, without any disagreeable consequences. I should think there could be no difficulty in doing it in the house of any poor person ; but it certainly might be very easily done in a fever-ward.

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## BOARD OF HEALTH.

*Manchester, Feburary 10th, 1796.*



AT a Meeting of the Committee held this day at the Bridgewater Arms Inn ;

*The Report of the Medical Committee of the Infirmary.*

The committee of the Board of Health, having received the following report from the Medical Committee of the Infirmary, desire the attendance of those who are disposed to favour their views, at the Bridgewater Arms, on Wednesday February 17th, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

*Medical Committee, February 9th, 1796.*

Present Dr. Percival, Dr. Ferriar, Dr. Bardsley, Dr. Holme, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Bill, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Ward, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Henry.

The following address to the public, on the subject of providing a house for preventing infection, was agreed to, viz.

The attention of the public has been already called to the calamitous state of the poor in this town and neighbourhood, during the prevalence of the epidemic fever, which has spread among them of late years.

From the readiness and generosity with which relief has been furnished, the committee entertain no doubt that the public benevolence will support the plan of preventing, and diminishing, the sickness of the poor, by establishing a house for the reception of particular cases, under the direction of the physicians to the infirmary.

It is a fact established by long observation, that contagious fevers are propagated by individual infection; and many striking instances of this truth have lately come under the cognizance of the infirmary physicians\*.

\* The establishment of a House of Recovery, as best calculated to check the progress of the fever, if not nearly to extinguish it, is strikingly exemplified by the following facts, selected from a number of others almost equally as strong and satisfactory.

A boy employed at a cotton-mill, brought the fever into his family in Fleet-street, consisting of his father, mother, and seven

The late alarming fever at Ashton, was introduced there by an infected person from Manchester ; and the great prevalence of the fever at Bank-top,

children. From a scarcity of beds, the infected person slept in turn with the rest of the family ; in consequence of which, they all became infected : the disease proved fatal to the mother and one daughter. The family were humanely visited by the mother's sister, who resided in Southern-street. She caught the fever, and communicated it to her daughter, who slept with her. The mother died ; and the daughter, with difficulty, struggled through the disease.

This family were visited, and attended upon, by a neighbour in Priestner-street.

This last person became infected by the fever, and imparted it to her husband, and one child. The husband, wife, and child, all perished by the disease.

The fever, after attacking five more of the family, still rages in the house—after an interval of seven weeks from the attack of the first individual.

The fever at Bank-top and the neighbourhood, began in a house in Briarley-street. It spread from thence to the cellars under Nos. 81 and 85, where six persons in the former, and eight in the latter, were infected. The neighbouring houses in Briarley-street, and in the main street, were then attacked. It was carried, by intercourse with relations, to No. 43, Port-street, and to 53, Portland-street. In the latter street, it next spread to Nos. 48, 49, 55, and into several houses in Chorlton-street. At the same time, another source of infection was opened at a lodging-house, No. 63, Portland-street. At one time, there were 92 fever-patients on the list in this district. The disease spread into several respectable families (particularly to a shop over a cellar) in which the fever raged, and proved very fatal in proportion to the number of cases.

At Ashton, upwards of three hundred people received the disease, in consequence of the introduction of one infected person into the cotton-mill.



and Deausgate, has been clearly traced to one family in each of those districts. It is therefore evident, that if upon the appearance of the fever in a house calculated to favour the progress of infection, the patient was removed to a clean, well ventilated room, and dismissed after recovery, with the clothes properly purified, the first strides of the epidemic would be arrested, and much disease, and mortality would be avoided.

It would be no exaggeration to assert, that for every person thus removed, the infection of twenty others would be prevented.

To persons unacquainted with the subject, it may appear, that the institution of such a place of reception, would keep up a constant number of patients; but it must be considered, that by using precautions which cannot be taken in the dwellings of the poor, the chance of infection from each individual would terminate with his disease; while his whole family, and many of his acquaintance, would escape the hazard by his removal.

Some degree of alarm may also be excited among those who reside in the neighbourhood of the houses to be so appropriated. To obviate this, the committee wish to remark, that there will be no access to, nor communication with, patients in the wards; that their linen, beds, and clothes, will be washed and aired in places completely separated from the neighbourhood, and that no danger can arise from the effluvia of the patients, as it has been shewn

by the observations of Dr. Russel and Mr. Howard, that the effluvia of patients in the plague itself, are incapable of infecting at the distance of a very few yards.

While the committee trust that these facts will rouse the benevolent exertions of the town, they have particular pleasure in stating, that these important objects may be attained without a great degree of expence, compared with the population, and opulence of the town and neighbourhood; though they have formed the calculation on the present high number of fever patients.



### *Board of Health.*

Manchester, February 17th, 1796.

AT a General Meeting held this day at the Bridgewater Arms Inn:—

The Report of the Committee of the Board of Health, to the General Body of the Friends of the Institution, assembled February 17th, 1796.

“ Your committee have paid diligent attention to the great objects recommended to them; and have, at several successive meetings, passed various resolutions, grounded upon the evidence laid before them, relative to the *causes* of infection subsisting among us, and to the *manner* in which those causes may be most effectually obviated.

“ In the course of these inquiries, they have been favoured with many valuable communications from different gentlemen, for which their best thanks have been returned, and which are entered into their journals.

“ With concern they have found, that many causes tend to *produce*, or to *propagate* infectious disorders ; which it will be very difficult, and perhaps impossible, entirely to remove. From these they have turned their principal attention to other causes, which lie more immediately within their reach, and upon which their endeavours may be exerted with the fairest probability of success. To meet the existing evil in its present circumstances, and to provide an *immediate* remedy for impending calamity and danger, appeared to your committee to be objects of the first magnitude and urgency.

“ Passing over therefore, for the present, what will hereafter call for your most serious and deliberate consideration, they have enquired, “ What is the degree of fever which now prevails ?” And they have found, that there are not less than 178 persons at present under the care of the physicians of the Infirmary, as home-patients, afflicted with fever ; and that this number is increasing daily.

“ But however alarming this statement may be, your committee have felt themselves animated with the full assurance, that by strenuous and *immediate* endeavours, much may be done, under Providence,

to check the *present*, and to prevent the *future*, ravages of this dreadful malady.

“ In this great object, humanity to the poor is combined with all the strongest feelings of the heart ;—with a regard to our families, and to ourselves : For who can tell, how soon contagion may enter into those dwellings which seem furthest from the reach of danger, and best protected against it ?

“ That your committee might obtain the most satisfactory information, they have, besides availing themselves of the individual and private communications before referred to, made application to the medical committee, of the Infirmary, requesting them to point out the best methods of obviating infection, to prepare an address to the public upon the subject, and to draw up an estimate of the *expences* which may probably attend the measures they might recommend. With this request, the medical committee have kindly complied ; and have favoured us with a report, which your committee has ordered to be printed, and dispersed, for the information of the general body now assembled.

“ Having thus obtained the most authentic information relative to the *nature* and *causes* of the evil to be combated, and to the *manner* of combating it with the best prospect of success, your committee have now called together the general body of the friends of this institution, in order to propose what appears to them necessary to be done

as soon as possible, to effect in the best manner what we have in view."

The following resolutions were then unanimously passed :

1st. That it is the determination of this meeting, that apartments be immediately prepared for the reception of persons sick of infectious disorders ; and that these be provided with beds and other furniture, with nurses, and with every thing necessary for the accommodation and comfort of the sick.

2. That the apartments thus provided, be called **THE HOUSE OF RECOVERY** ; and that it be appropriated for the reception of such home-patients of the Infirmary, as the physicians may think proper, under certain circumstances, to remove from their own houses.

3. That every thing necessary to carry this plan into immediate execution, be entrusted to a committee, now to be named, to whom it be given in charge, to proceed with all possible dispatch, and to take all such measures as they may deem expedient.

4. That the committee consist of 21 subscribers, and the physicians of the Infirmary ; and that three or more of the said committee, regularly convened, be competent to act.

5. That the said committee be hereby empowered to act till the general meeting in May 1797 ; at which time, in every year, the general meeting shall proceed to the choice of a committee for the



ensuing year, subject to the regulation and qualifications hereafter specified.

6. That every benefactor of five guineas shall be a trustee of this institution.

7. That every annual subscriber of one guinea be qualified to vote in the year in which his or her subscription is paid.

8. That every annual subscriber for this year shall be deemed to have a vote till the first day of June, 1797 ; and that afterwards the year shall be considered as beginning on the last Saturday in May.

9. That the said committee be requested to proceed, with all convenient speed, in their inquiries into all the existing causes of infection ; and to take all such steps as may to them appear necessary, to the accomplishment of the great object of the institution of the Board of Health ; and that they report their proceedings, and deliver in their accounts, to two general meetings in each year, to be held on the last Fridays in May and October.

10. That in order to defray the charges of the establishment, and support of the House of Recovery, application be made to the clergymen of all denominations in Manchester and Salford, requesting that sermons may be preached, and collections made in their respective places of worship, as soon as possible, in aid of this charity : and that subscriptions be now entered into, and further soli

cited, under the direction of the committee, for these purposes.

11. That this meeting do approve of the report presented this day by the committee nominated on the 7th of January last; and will endeavour, by every means in their power, to promote the institution, and support of the establishment recommended in the said report.

The following resolutions were then proposed, and agreed to :

1st. That the thanks of this general board be returned to T. B. Bayley, Esq. for his great exertions in bringing forward this business before the public, and for the ability with which he has presided at the meetings of the board; and that he be requested to accept the office of president of this institution for the year ensuing.

2. That thanks be likewise returned to the gentlemen, who have favoured the late committee with their valuable communications, relative to the great objects we have in view.

3. That Mr. Richard Meadowcroft be appointed treasurer to the institution, and that the following gentlemen constitute the committee :

T. B. Bayley, Esq.	Mr. Charles Wood.
The Rev. Dr. Barnes.	Mr. C. F. Brandt.
Mr. Richard Barlow.	Mr. N. Heywood.
Mr. John Barton.	Mr. Samuel Greg.
The Rev. Mr. Broomhead.	George Lloyd, Esq.

The Rev. John Clowes. Robert James, Esq.  
The Rev. Samuel Hall. Mr. George Philips.  
Mr. George Lee. Mr. R. Meadowcroft.  
Mr. Samuel Marsland. John Simpson, Esq.  
Mr. Thomas Robinson. Mr. Robert Philips.  
Mr. James Touchet.

And the physicians attending the Infirmary, for the time being.

4. That the committee now appointed do meet on Friday next at four o'clock in the afternoon.

By order of the board,

THOMAS BELLOTT, Secretary.

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*Copy of a Letter from Mr. David Dale to  
T. B. Bayley, Esq.*

Glasgow, February 23d, 1796.

DEAR SIR,

I HAD the honour of receiving your letter of the 11th current; and I send you inclosed an answer to your queries. The answers are all given with the strictest regard to truth, without any colouring whatever.

Two of those included in the number of deaths might have been left out, because they never worked at the mills; but were sent there by persons who wished to throw them over on me. One of them came with a rupture, the other with

a white swelling in his knee ; and as neither of them had any relations willing to take care of them, I kept them in the boarding-house for two or three years, and did every thing in my power for their recovery, but in vain.

I am quite satisfied in my own mind, that cotton mills, under proper management, are as favourable to health as any other employment. Indeed, it is observed by the parents of the children who work at my mills for wages, and are fed and lodged by their parents in their own houses, that the part of their family which works at the mills, is more healthy than the part that is at home ; and with regard to their morals, I have no hesitation in saying, that they are, at least, as correct as what will be found among an equal number in any manufacturing business ; and when it is considered, that the greatest part of the children who are in the boarding-house, consists of destitute orphans, children abandoned by their parents, some of whose parents are transported as felons, many who know not who were their parents, and who brought with them a weakly constitution, transmitted to them by diseased parents, it gives me pleasure to say, that by proper management, and attention, much *good*, instead of *evil*, may be done at cotton mills. For I think I am warranted in affirming, that many now have stout healthy bodies, and are of decent behaviour, who in all probability would have been languishing with disease, and pests to society, had they

not been employed at Lanark cotton mills. I should not have mentioned these things, had it not been to shew that it is not owing to the nature of the business, that cotton mills are unfavourable either to the health or morals of those who are employed in them, but to other causes.

When I received your letter, I at first thought of referring to the account of Lanark cotton mills, in the beginning of the fifteenth volume of Sir John Sinclair's statistical account of Scotland, but as some things respecting the food of the children are not correct, and as the account goes only to the state of the mills in November 1793, I thought it would be more satisfying to answer the queries according to the state that things are in at this day.

I have seen Mr. Gisborne's Inquiry ; but Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories are not to be got here.

It gives me pleasure to find, that a gentleman who has been so useful to society as you have been, is a burghess of Glasgow ; many of your fellow-citizens would be happy to see you again here, and none more than,

Dear Sir,

Your affectionate

And obedient humble servant,

DAVID DALE.



*Answers to the following Queries.*

1. THE dimensions of spinning rooms, especially the height ?
  2. Number of spindles in a room ?
  3. Modes of ventilation, and purification ?
  4. Number of boys and girls in one room ?
  5. Hours of labour, of rest, and for meals ?
  6. Rules for cleanliness, and health ?
  7. Time and manner of teaching the children to read, and of religious instruction ?
  8. Mode, and time of hiring ?
  9. Whence the mills are supplied with labourers ?
  10. Means employed to prevent, or to correct, the typhus fever ?
  11. Mode of lodging, and feeding the children ?
  12. What are they fit for, when too big for the spindles ?
  13. Are they commonly strong for labour, or otherwise, &c. ?
1. The spinning, and all the other rooms, are of the whole extent of the buildings, without any subdivisions, and are from 120 to 150 feet long, from 26 to 30 feet wide, and all of them in height 10 feet from floor to floor, or nine feet clear of the beams.
2. The spinning rooms contain each about 2000 spindles.

3. Ventilation is greatly promoted by the rapid motion of many parts of the machinery ; fresh air is introduced by regularly opening the windows at top, on both sides of the house. To increase the circulation of this still more, air-holes, six inches square, on a level with the floor, are opened below every other window through the walls, at the distance of 14 feet from each other ; but these are only of advantage in summer, as the cold in winter precludes the use of them. The means of purification in use are, washing the walls and cielings of the rooms at least once a year, with new slacked lime, weekly washings of the floor and machinery with scalding water, frequent and constant brushings of the walls, cieling, and floor.

4. The greatest number of persons in any one room is 75 ; in some there are only 50.

5. The hours of labour  $11\frac{1}{2}$  each day, viz. from six o'clock in the morning to seven o'clock at night, with half an hour of intermission at nine o'clock for breakfast, and a whole hour at two for dinner.

6. The only rules for cleanliness and health, are such as enjoin the practices mentioned in answer to the third query.

7. Seven is the hour of supper ; in half an hour after at most, and as much sooner as possible, the teaching commences, and continues till nine o'clock. The schools at present are attended by 507 scholars, in instructing whom there are 16 teachers employed ; 13 in teaching to read, two to write, and

one to figure, besides a person who teaches sewing, and another who occasionally teaches church music. The mode of teaching is as follows : The course is divided into eight classes, according to the progress of the scholars ; to each of these classes one or more teachers are assigned, as the numbers in that stage of advancement may require. To the teachers is specified in writing how far they are respectively to carry forwards their scholars ; which so soon as they have accomplished, the scholars are transferred to the next higher class, and the teacher receives a small premium for every one so qualified\*. In their respective classes, the teachers promote emulation in the usual way, by making the top of the

\* The following is a state of the numbers in each class at present, which affords an accurate view of the general state of their education.

	Scholars.
In the 1st or latter class, there are - - - - -	65
2d - - - - -	82
3d - - - - -	76
4th - - - - -	65
5th - - - - -	44
6th - - - - -	44
7th - - - - -	51
8th - - - - -	80

The eighth or highest class, are all good readers, and employ the half of their time each night in writing : such as stand in no farther need of in-structions in reading, of which there are about 12 boys and 12 girls, who employ the remainder of their time, after writing, in learning arithmetic, and sewing, except on occasional nights appointed for reviving their reading.

class the post of honour : which is still farther kept up, by the distribution of small rewards every half year, to such as, from an account taken once a fortnight, appear to have been most frequently uppermost. On Sundays, that part of the children who cannot go to church from want of accommodation, are kept busy at school ; and in the evenings, after public worship, the usual teachers spend regularly three hours in giving religious instruction, by causing the scriptures to be read, catechising, &c.\* Besides these night-schools, there are two day-schools for children too young for work, which, as well as the night ones, (excepting the providing their own books) are entirely free of expence to the scholars.

8. The time of hiring differs with the different description of children. Those who agree for a stipulated weekly wage, and who generally are such as live with their parents, are commonly engaged for four years ; while such as are received from the workhouse in Edinburgh, or who are otherwise without friends to take charge of them, and who in lieu of wages are maintained, and educated, are bound four, five, six, or seven years, according to their age, or generally till they have completed their fifteenth year. The mode of hiring is generally by contract of the parents, or curators of the children, in their behalf.

\* There is accommodation at church for only 150 children ; they all go to it in rotation.

9. The supply of workers for the mills comes either from the native inhabitants of the place, from families who have been collected about the works from the neighbouring parishes, and more distant parts of the country, or lastly from Edinburgh and Glasgow, by the number of destitute children these places constantly afford.

10. When fever, or any other epidemical disorder, appears in the boarding-house, where that description of workers, who do not receive their wages in money, are accommodated, the means used to prevent the spreading of the infection are, the immediate removal of the sick to a detached part of the house, and a frequent sprinkling, and fumigating of the bed-rooms with vinegar. No typhus fever has appeared there for years, but has during that time been in the village, though never general; and in these cases, in so far as circumstances afforded the means of judging, never appeared to originate in the mills, or even to be communicated by the intercourse the workers have there with each other\*.

\* The following state of the number of children in the boarding-house, at different periods, and the annual deaths there, best evinces their general state of health.

In 1792, there were 270 boarders, and during that year 2 deaths.

1793,	. . .	288	. . . . .	1	. .
1794,	. . .	306	. . . . .	0	. .
1795,	. . .	384	. . . . .	5	. .
				<hr/>	
				8	



11. The greater part of the workers are lodged in their parents' houses in the village, in the immediate neighbourhood of the mills, or in the town of Lanark, one mile distant. The principal part of their food, as is usual in the country, consists of oat-meal.

Those who get their maintenance in lieu of wages, are lodged all together in one house. They consist at present of 396 boys and girls. There are six sleeping apartments for them, and three children are allowed to each bed. The ceilings and walls of the apartments are white-washed twice a year with hot lime, and the floors washed once a week with scalding water and sand. The children sleep in wooden-bottomed beds, on bed-ticks filled with straw, which is in general changed once a month; a sheet covers the bed-ticks, and above that are one or two pairs of blankets, and a bed-cover, as the season requires. The bed-rooms are carefully swept, and the windows thrown open every morning, in which state they remain through the day. Of late, cast-iron bedsteads have been introduced in place of wooden ones.

The upper body clothing in use in summer, both for boys and girls, is entirely of cotton, which, as they have spare suits to change with, are washed once a fortnight. In winter, the boys are dressed in woollen cloth; and they, as well as the girls, have complete dress suits for Sunday: their linens are changed once a week. For a few months in sum-

mer, both boys and girls go without shoes and stockings. The provisions are dressed in cast iron boilers, and consist of oatmeal porridge for breakfast and supper, and milk with them in its season. In winter, its substitute is a composition of molasses fermented with some new beer, which is called swats. For dinner, the whole of them have every day, in all seasons, barley broth made from fresh beef; the beef itself is divided amongst one half of the children in quantities of about 7oz. English to each; the other half are served with cheese in quantities of about 5oz. English to each; so that they have alternately beef or cheese for dinner, excepting now and then a dinner of herrings in winter, and fresh butter in summer. To the beef and cheese is added a plentiful allowance of potatoes or barley-bread, of which last they have also an allowance every morning before going to work.

12. and 13. As far as observation with regard to these two queries has extended; the workers when too big for spinning, are as stout and robust as others. The male part of them are fit for any trades, a great many since the commencement of the war have gone into the army and navy, and others are occasionally going away apprentices to smiths, joiners, &c. but especially to weavers, for which last trade, from the expertness they acquire in handling yarn, they are particularly well fitted, and of course are taken apprentices on better terms. The females very generally leave the mills to go to

private family service, when about sixteen years age. Were they disposed to continue at the mill these afford abundant employment for them reeling, picking, &c. as well as to many more young men than ever remain at them.

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*Copy of a Letter from Dr. Haygarth, of Chester  
to Dr. Percival. March 5, 1796.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,

VARIOUS engagements have delayed my answer to your obliging letter of the 17th of February. With your medical report of the 9th of February I am well pleased, particularly with the statement of the instructive, and highly interesting facts which explain in what manner the epidemical fever has spread by personal contagion. It is intimate that the cases which are here published were selected from a number of others, for the sake of brevity. While the events, which have marked the progress of the epidemic, are recent in the memory of the medical attendants, as well as of the poor sufferers by this calamity; I would earnestly recommend as *full a collection* as possible of the facts. In a summary, or more detailed form they ought to be printed, being undoubtedly the firmest and most durable foundation of your intended fever-wards. They may properly form the p

amble or appendix to the first report of your new establishment.

I do not understand whether you have fixed upon a plan of wards to receive fever-patients ;—a many house with spacious, well ventilated rooms, might answer the temporary use of checking the present epidemic. We employed for this purpose the attic story of our infirmary, which was vacant. If your infirmary does not allow of such accommodation, many advantages would arise from erecting four or six spacious well ventilated wards, closely annexed to the infirmary. Perfect safety, as explained in my former letter, and many advantages would arise from such a situation, in regard to medical attendance, food, nurses, &c. and particularly in preventing the hospital fever, which I believe is generally produced by patients admitted for other disorders, who after admission are attacked by the typhous-fever in consequence of previous infection ; such cases may most safely and commodiously be removed into the fever-wards, if annexed to the infirmary, so as to preserve the rest of the house perfectly free from contagion.

You ask my opinion concerning the mode of preventing contagion, recommended lately by an ingenious medical friend of ours. I will say frankly, that I have many doubts, which require various observations, or experiments, to determine. I doubt whether the air of a chamber can be impregnated with any mineral acid, except the vola-



tic vitriolic. And I know of no decisive facts to prove, that a chamber can be disinfected by this volatile vitriolic vapour. I can produce a kind of presumptive evidence to the contrary. You know that this vitriolic vapour is employed to kill bugs contained in any chamber. On this humble but interesting subject I made some trials, and found from the fumes of burning sulphur, that bugs run away, but that they are not killed by it. Having so far entered upon the subjects of infirmaries, it will not be irrelevant to say, that rectified *spirits of wine* is the best poison for bugs. It has no disagreeable smell; leaves no stain; can be applied in every crevice, as well as freely to clothes. I have seen two drops of the rectified spirits of wine in a small phial kill forty bugs; the experiment was repeated with the same success. You may suspect that the animals were only dead drunk; but they never revived. In regard to the disinfection of clothes, the simplest process to me appears to promise most safety. Let every thing possible be thrown into cold water, and washed out of it. Some woollen clothes may not admit of this mode of purification; these I would freely sprinkle with a garden watering-pan, and then dry them completely before a fire. Contagious effluvia are very volatile, as might be proved by numerous observations, and simple exposure of clothes to a current of air, would probably convey away every infectious miasm; but if any should remain, they



must be effectually dissipated by the aid of moisture, and warmth, as above.

May I beg the favour of you to inform me what progress has been made by your board of health, in establishing a house for the reception of fever-patients. Will not some object to the name to be given it, “ a house of recovery ? ”

I am, &c.

J. HAYGARTH.

*Copy of a Letter from Dr. Campbell, of Lancaster,  
to Dr. Percival. March 7th, 1796.*

DEAR SIR,

I FEEL quite ashamed that I should so long have deferred my reply to your favour, informing me of the establishment of a *Board of Health* at Manchester. I cannot but think that this institution will be of the most essential service, not only to the lower orders of society, but to persons who, although they have little or no immediate communication with them, are yet liable to the contagion of fevers, propagated from the usual sources by indirect, and little suspected means. To remove a family from the filthy rags, and greasy walls, which are so common in the habitations where the infectious fever is mostly generated, to a well aired and newly white-washed dwelling ; to accommodate them with clean cloathing of every kind, whilst

their own blankets, and other articles of bedding, and dress, are undergoing the purification of the fulling-mill, washing, the oven, or whatever may be thought the best means of ridding them of the effluvia and filth, with which they have been loaded until they are become a powerful source of disease; and finally to insulate, as soon as possible, the sick person from that kind of intercourse and contact, which are unavoidable when a family is crowded, not only into one small room, but frequently into the same bed;—appear to me the most powerful and essential means of checking the mischief in its infancy, and in consequence of rendering important services to every rank of society.

I hope I need entertain no apprehensions but that good sense of the inhabitants of Manchester will liberally support a scheme so evidently calculated to promote their best interests.

To remove all the sources of disease, to which the habitations of the lower orders in large manufacturing towns are subject, will I fear be impossible; but the frequent application of *white-wash*, which by incorporating with, changing chemically, or at least consuming the smoke of the candles, the animal effluvia, or what other offensive matters adhere to them, and by thus furnishing a clean surface to the whole interior of the dwelling, has always appeared to me to be productive of the best effects; at the same time that it is easily practicable, and at a trifling expence. And were a committee

to be appointed, who would make it their business to see that this was regularly done *once* or *twice* in the course of a year ; I am persuaded that the result would be highly beneficial. With respect to their clothes, so often loaded with every species of impurity, I have found more difficulty in getting them cleaned than would at first be thought probable. But on a larger scale, such as I presume it will be in your power to adopt, a *mill* might be constructed, in which the dirty cloathing, and especially the blankets of these persons might be washed, without risking the health, or injuring the feelings of the parties employed. We have in this neighbourhood two mills for washing by machinery only ; and which might be advantageously applied to the purpose in question. When upon the subject of the means of preventing the propagation of infection, either from the persons or clothes of the sick, I cannot help transcribing a passage in *Samoi-lowitz sur la Peste*, as it is so illustrative of what *separation* and *cleanliness* can effect with respect to the most active and virulent of all contagions.

Page 12, he informs us, “ that after crossing  
 “ the Pruth, and part of Moldavia, we arrived in  
 “ the neighbourhood of Brailow. I entered with  
 “ the officers into a field, where I perceived, at  
 “ some distance, near a cottage, a person very in-  
 “ differently sheltered from the intemperance of  
 “ the season, and who appeared to me to be sick.  
 “ As my thoughts were occupied with the plague,

“ I went towards the place, and in fact found this  
 “ to be a young man, who was labouring under  
 “ that disease. As soon as I began to interrogate  
 “ him in the Moldavian language, his mother,  
 “ who came out, assured me, that his disorder  
 “ was the plague. I then asked her if she could  
 “ shew me the part of her son’s body which was  
 “ the seat of the plague ; but she answered me  
 “ that she durst not touch him, lest she should be  
 “ infected by the disorder. The young man, who  
 “ had strength sufficient, let me see a bubo, which  
 “ was seated in his right groin. He had been ill  
 “ twelve days. How then, said I to his mother,  
 “ have you been able to preserve, not only your-  
 “ self, but your husband and your other children  
 “ all this time free from it ? It is, said she, by  
 “ abstaining from touching either the sick person,  
 “ any of his clothing, or any thing which he has  
 “ touched. She afterwards explained to me in the  
 “ following terms all the other circumstances on  
 “ which I questioned her.”

“ As soon as the *plague* shews itself in our  
 “ country, all the inhabitants have notice given  
 “ them by the *plague captain* ;\* and as soon as any  
 “ person falls sick in any house, they are obliged

\* In Moldavia and Wallachia, every city and every village in proportion to their extent, are divided into *quarters* ; and there is in every quarter a man qualified to be the *plague captain* : his business is to visit the persons who are infected by the plague, instead of physicians or surgeons, who are very scarce in these countries.



“ instantly to put a particular *sign* at the door,  
 “ and to acquaint the captain of the quarter,  
 “ whose duty it is immediately to visit the sick  
 “ person, and if he finds him attacked by the  
 “ plague, and if it be in the summer season, as at  
 “ present, he gives orders that the sick person be  
 “ put out of the house, with all his clothes, and  
 “ that care be taken to give him what may be ne-  
 “ cessary without. But if it be in the winter  
 “ season, he is taken into the place assigned for  
 “ the reception of persons infected with the  
 “ plague, and in case of death, persons appointed  
 “ to that office carry him out, and bury him.  
 “ When on the other hand the sick recovers, he  
 “ is washed several times in the river, as well as  
 “ his clothes, and then sent back to his family.  
 “ If my son recovers his health, as I hope he will,  
 “ (added she) because his plague is of a favourable  
 “ kind; I shall myself conduct him to the river,  
 “ and shew him how to wash himself thoroughly,  
 “ as well as his clothes, which are yet worth it:  
 “ as for those which are good for little, we shall  
 “ burn them.”

I am, &c.

D. CAMPBELL



*Copy of a Letter from Dr. Carmichael Smyth to  
Dr. Percival; dated London, 7th July, 1796.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM now to acknowledge your obliging favour of the 17th of February last, to which I did not give an immediate answer, being engaged in the experiment aboard the *Union*, which I undertook at the request of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the result of which I was desirous to communicate to you as the best and most satisfactory answer I could give to your letter. I desired Mr. Johnson to send you a copy of that publication as soon as it was printed, although I have been prevented writing to you till now, owing to a variety of engagements and business, which it is needless here to explain. But I can assure you I have not been forgetful of, or inattentive to the benevolent undertaking of your society, which reflects so much honour on you and the other gentlemen engaged in it, and to which I shall be at all times happy to contribute any assistance in my power to give. The very limited sphere of contagion is so well ascertained, that I have occasion to say little on the subject; in my book I have mentioned, after many years experience as physician to an hospital, into which more typhus fevers were admitted in proportion than into any other, that the most highly contagious fevers that occur in our hospitals do not affect the patients in general, lodged in the

same ward, &c. for we had no appropriate fever-wards, nor did I ever see the necessity for such, as the communication was in general easily prevented by the means I employed. I have also mentioned that there is no or at least a very trifling risk of contagious fevers being propagated in the open air, still less from one room or ward to another;—and that I never knew contagion propagated by a dead body, even from the dissection of it, unless by inoculation. But independent of all these observations, the fumigation of the nitrous acid, if properly employed, not only certainly destroys it, but improves greatly the atmospheric air by supplying a quantity of dephlogisticated air or oxygen, and it effectually destroys all offensive smell. I also, as you must have observed, use the diluted marine acid for washing the floors, bedsteads, &c. and put marine acid in the pails of water for immersing the foul linen, &c. In bed-chambers and private apartments I generally keep up, where there is a contagious disease, a constant fumigation (which can easily be done by means of a lamp, over which is placed a china cup or saucer with oil of vitriol and nitre, an ounce and a half or two ounces of each are sufficient for twenty-four hours). If you have any queries to put to me, I need hardly assure you that I shall take a pleasure in answering them, and at all times of convincing you of the regard and esteem of, &c.

J. CARMICHAEL SMYTH.

*Copy of a second Letter from the same to Dr.  
Percival. Dated London, Aug. 1st, 1796.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM this moment favoured with your letter of the 30th of July. I can have no objection to your making any use, public or private, of my letter to you. The accuracy of the facts I will be answerable for ;—but as it was a private communication to a particular friend, I was little attentive to style or manner. Respecting the limited sphere of contagion I said the less, as I considered it a matter so well ascertained, and by such a body of evidence, as required no additional proof. Mankind have been led into error on this subject, by confounding under the general name of contagious or epidemic, diseases of very different natures and origin. But of all those contagions, that are propagated from one diseased person, or his clothes, to another person, the sphere of deleterious power is in general so extremely limited, that there have been, and still are, some physicians, who believe they are only propagated by contact. At Winchester, during my stay there, one soldier only, who was placed as a guard over the prisoners in the airing ground, was seized with the distemper ; and very few of the military suffered, although the guard-room was immediately under one of the prison-wards, and the sentinels mixed with the prisoners even in the courts and passages of the King's House or prison. And

lately, on board the Union, none of the officers suffered, and few of the petty officers ; nor would the ship's company have suffered so severely as they did, could their intercourse with the nurses and assistants in the hospital have been prevented. But, independently of the limited sphere of contagion, I will venture to ensure even the nurses and hospital assistants, in any situation, if they will be induced to use the proper precautions, and if the hospital is properly fumigated, the wards sprinkled with diluted marine acid, the dirty linen, &c. immediately immersed in pails filled with cold water impregnated with marine acid, the chamber-pots, soil-tubs, &c. quickly removed and washed with the same, the bedsteads washed every time they are empty with the diluted marine acid, and the bed-cloaths fumigated with the nitrous vapour. In hospitals crowded with sick, in ships, prisons, &c. it is necessary to fumigate completely every part of the ship, prison, &c. twice a day ; but in common cases, and in private practice, such means are not necessary ; and one, two, or three fumigating lamps, in which a constant fumigation is kept up, night and day, so as to pass over the beds of the sick, are perfectly sufficient. In this manner, I have not only stopped the common contagion in the hospital and in private, but I have equally succeeded (which is of great consequence to be known) in preventing the scarlatina anginosa, or putrid sore throat, from being communicated to



the rest of the family, living under the same roof. Whether this will apply to the small-pox, I cannot say from my own experience ; but I have been told by Dr. Rollo, surgeon to the artillery, and Mr. Cruikshank, professor royal of chemistry to the academy, that it destroys the miasma of the small-pox ; and that of two quantities of matter, taken for the purpose of inoculation, one was exposed to the nitrous vapour, the other not ; and that the persons inoculated with the first were not seized with the disease, whilst the inoculation took the usual effect, when performed with the second.

I ever remain,

With sincere regard,

Yours truly,

J. CARMICHAEL SMYTH.

The foregoing letters being read :

*It was resolved,*

That they should be published with the following prefatory address :

N. B. During the spring and summer of the year 1780, the jail distemper prevailed with such dreadful mortality amongst the Spanish prisoners in King's House at Winchester, that the evil became the subject of parliamentary enquiry ; and Dr. Smyth was commissioned to go down to Winchester, to superintend the treatment and cure of a disease, whose violence and fatal effects were every



day increasing. The success of his practice procured for him the honour of the following resolution of the house of commons :

Resolved, *nem. con.* That an humble address be presented to his Majesty that he will be graciously pleased to take the merits of Doctor James Carmichael Smyth into his royal consideration, and to confer upon him such marks of his Majesty's favour, as his Majesty in his royal goodness may think fit.

Dr. Smyth has been this year very meritoriously employed, by authority of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to determine the effect of the nitric acid gas in destroying contagion, on board the Union hospital ship, which has answered the most sanguine expectations entertained of it.

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*Extract of a Letter to Dr. Percival, from Robert Percival, M. D. M. R. I. A. Professor of Chemistry in Trinity College, Dublin.*

“ THE building which, since November 1792, has been applied to the uses of an hospital, is situated in a very close part of the town. There is no opportunity of free ventilation, except on one side ; where some decayed houses have been pulled down. Habitations are crowded on the rear. The space between the front of the hospital and of the oppo-

site houses measures 27 feet. I have made diligent enquiry from the officers of the house, two of whom have been there since its first establishment, and do not find that there is any reason for supposing, or even for surmising, that infection has been propagated to the neighbourhood. They have never heard any complaint of the kind; nor have I. Since its first institution to the 20th of July, 1796, two hundred and seventy-six patients, ill of fevers, have been admitted. Of these, sixteen (or about 1 in 17) have died. The wards contain not more than six beds at a medium. Other diseases, besides fevers, are admitted. Fever patients are generally kept in the upper wards. It may be proper to remark, that the disposition of the wards is not ill-suited to ventilation. They communicate with a spacious well stair-case, which extends from the bottom to the top of the house.

Near the roof is a window, which is kept constantly open. In the winter of 1793, a fever was supposed to spread in the house. The apothecary and two nurses were infected. I was myself confined at the time, by a hurt I had received; and have not been able to trace the causes. I never have known any other instance of fever being communicated within the house, except in one or two cases at the most, and these I consider as doubtful. Fevers of the worst description have been admitted. I have never employed any precaution but cleanliness and frequent white-wash-

ing ; and am so far confirmed in the sufficiency of these means, as to feel myself little disposed to adopt any other."

Dublin, August 1, 1796.

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*Extract of a Letter from James Currie, M.D.  
of Liverpool, to Dr. Percival. Dated May 13,  
1792.*

I HAD a pleasant though hurried journey into Scotland. I went no farther than Lanark, to pay a visit to Mr. David Dale ; who, in the course of six years, has reared a village, containing two thousand persons, on the banks of the Clyde, and erected five cotton mills, each containing 6000 spindles. I was charmed with this extraordinary man ; and could not help frequently reflecting on the pleasure you would have enjoyed, in seeing the various provisions he has made for the health and instruction of the children he employs. They looked blooming, perfectly strong, and vigorous ; and all the apartments were clean and well aired. Six school-masters are constantly employed in their tuition ; and every day they have some hours to ramble in the fields, and to use their limbs as they please. He has established a regular succession in this ; and the whole enjoy the comforts of sleep at night. Divine service is also provided for.

Manchester, 10th March, 1796.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.



AT a Meeting of the Committee held this day at the Bridgewater Arms Inn, the following Report was presented by the Chairman of the Medical Committee of the Manchester Infirmary.

### REPORT OF THE MEDICAL COMMITTEE.

AT a Meeting of the Medical Committee held this 9th day of March, 1796, at the Manchester Infirmary, present,

Dr. Percival,	Mr. Bill,
Dr. Ferriar,	Dr. Taylor,
Dr. Bardsley,	Mr. Killer,
Dr. Holme,	Mr. Ward,
Mr. Simmons,	Mr. Hamilton.

A letter was read from the secretary of the board of health, stating the objections of certain land-owners to the site of the intended house of recovery; and requesting the committee to take them into consideration, and to deliver their opinions concerning them.

In compliance with this requisition, we have consulted together on the objects pointed out for our deliberation, and have agreed to present the following propositions to the board of health.

I. The house of recovery being part of the system of the dispensary, it is highly expedient

that it should be situated within the precincts of the hospital; that the patients may be visited more frequently, and with greater convenience by the physicians; and that the physicians' clerk may be able to afford immediate assistance, in cases of sudden danger or emergency.

II. The house of recovery has not only these peculiar advantages, but it is erected on an insulated spot of ground; more than sixty feet from any occupied building; in a situation remarkably well ventilated; having no front doors; and being furnished with conveniences, which will exclude all direct communication with the street.

III. An establishment of this nature could not be situated in any part of Manchester, or its environs, so as less to affect the value of the neighbouring property, from *fanciful apprehensions* of contagion, because the land on each side, and to the back, is open, and uninhabited, and being possessed by the trustees of the infirmary, is not likely to be sold or alienated.

IV. Portland-street, and Paradise-court, with the adjoining passages and alleys, are already subject to the constant visitation of a contagious fever. A house of recovery, therefore, will not introduce this evil; and will be so far from augmenting it, that it will powerfully tend to check its diffusion, and even to accomplish its local extermination. For the sick may without loss of time, and with great ease and convenience, be removed to it; and



will themselves favour the measure from their daily observation of its salutary consequences.\*

V. The medical committee, in a former report to the board of health, have stated it as their decided opinion, that no danger of the communication of contagion can be justly apprehended by the neighbourhood, from the establishment of the proposed house of recovery. Even a lazaretto for the plague itself, under proper regulations, is found by the fullest experience to produce no contamination of the air, capable of affecting the health of those who reside near it. And the committee renew the assurance of their entire conviction, that the present asylum for fever patients will be so conducted as to be perfectly innoxious to the inhabitants in its vicinity, whilst it promises permanent, and very extensive benefits to the community.

Thomas Percival, M. D.      John Bill.

John Ferriar, M. D.      Alex. Taylor, M. D.

S. A. Bardsley, M. D.      Robert Killer.

Edward Holme, M. D.      Michael Ward.

William Simmons.      Gavin Hamilton.

It was resolved,

That the report of the medical committee on the advantages of the situation already adopted for the erection of a house of recovery be transmitted by

\* Twenty-nine houses at this moment are infected with fever in Portland-street, and its immediate neighbourhood.

the committee to Messrs. Norris, and Ollivant, along with a respectful letter, expressive of its sentiments on this subject.

*Copy of the Letter.*

SIR,

I AM ordered by the committee of the board of health to transmit to you the enclosed report of the medical committee, on the establishment of a house of recovery in Portland-street.

The committee will have great satisfaction to learn, that this report obviates the objections, which you stated at a former meeting of the board; as it will give them pleasure to find, that, while they consult the general interests of the community, they do not encroach upon the real interests of any individual.

I am, &c.

THOS. BELLOTT, Sec.

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*Copy of a Letter from William Robert Hay, Esq.  
Barrister at Law.*

GENTLEMEN,

COLLECTING from Mr. Bellott's letter of the 17th of this month, and the enclosed paper, that the question in which you have done me the honour to desire my opinion is, " Whether or no the establishment of a house of recovery in such a situa-

tion, and under such circumstances as are described in the propositions presented to you by the medical committee, would make the board of health liable to the consequences of a prosecution, or action at law, for such persons as might object to its situation ?” I have no scruple in saying that my opinion is, that the board has no reason to apprehend the event of either, whether it be proceeded against directly for the supposed nuisance, or on the ground of the temporary depreciation in value, which the apprehension of its being a nuisance may occasion to the property of any land-owner. Indeed, in the latter instance I conceive that no action would lie. I beg to be understood as not grounding my opinion either on the 3d or 4th propositions of the medical committee,—because if the house were in itself really injurious to the neighbourhood, the circumstance of its being less so there than in any other situation, would not justify its establishment. As little do I think it would avail the board to state to a jury, that at the time of the establishment of the house, the neighbourhood was in many instances afflicted by a contagious fever ;—because I conceive that no casual circumstance can justify the setting up a fixed nuisance. But my judgment is formed on a conviction that such a settlement could in no situation be a real grievance, much less so when it is so particularly shut out from the neighbourhood, as in the propositions it is described to be. The opinions of the medical committee

must I think be decisive on the minds of any jury upon the question, Whether or no the proposed house be a nuisance? and I cannot help hoping, that the land-owners, being on reflection satisfied that their apprehensions have been unfounded, will not any farther object to the house being fixed in so eligible a situation as that proposed.

I have the honour to be, &c.

WILLIAM ROBERT HAY.

Duckenfield, 18th March, 1796.

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Manchester, 30th March, 1796.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT a Meeting of the Committee, held this at the Bridgewater Arms, the following Memorial, presented by Messrs. Norris and Ollivant, was received and read.

*To the Committee of the Board of Health.*

GENTLEMEN,

WE the undersigned, owners of lands and occupiers of houses in the neighbourhood near the place you have fixed upon to erect a lazar-house, with the most benevolent intention of checking the progress of fever in the town of Manchester, feel it a duty we owe to ourselves, our families, and the

public in general, to offer to your consideration our sentiments upon the subject.

We beg leave, in the first instance, to state to you our most hearty concurrence in the humane intention of abating, as far as possible, the ravages of that dreadful disease ; and likewise that if the plan adopted to carry so salutary an intention into execution be likely to produce the end proposed, we shall not be found wanting to contribute thereto. In the report of the committee of the 17th of February, you state “ the object of the “ first *magnitude and urgency*” to be, “ to meet “ the existing evil in its present circumstances, “ and to provide an immediate remedy for impending *calamity and danger*.” An epidemic fever is thus without doubt most properly described. You proceed and say, “ there are not less than one “ hundred and seventy-eight persons at present “ under the care of the physicians of the infirmary, as home-patients afflicted with fever, and “ the number is increasing daily.” But however *alarming* this statement may be, you “ hope to “ check the future ravages.” It is candid to allow that such an accumulation of infectious disease is *alarming*, and you say, “ *who can tell* how soon “ contagion may enter into those dwellings which “ seem furthest from the reach of danger, and “ best protected against it ?”

Thus you state, and state truly, that the alarm *is great*, and the *contagion to be dreaded*, to rouse



the benevolent exertions of a generous public to carry further into execution what the town of Manchester has ever been forward to give—protection and relief to the distressed.

You next introduce the report of your medical committee, and state, “ some degree of alarm  
“ may also be excited among those who reside in  
“ the neighbourhood of the houses to be so ap-  
“ propriated.” The medical committee have very candidly *admitted* that some degree of *alarm* may be excited in the neighbourhood;—to do away which they report, that “ there will be no access  
“ to, or communication with, patients in the  
“ wards;”—we presume that neither caution to persuade against, nor bars to resist, the approach of wards thus inhabited will be necessary to restrain those from visiting them whose duty does not immediately call them thereto. But is it the intention of the committee that the public shall take this quoted passage literally as expressed; that “ *no access*” shall be permitted? if so, patient adieu!

If, that the access shall be only for the nurses, and domestics of the house, will the medical committee be so good as to inform us that they can prevent those domestics from a communication with the neighbourhood, full charged through their whole dress with the effluvia of a fever-ward? We are next informed, that “ their linen, beds,  
“ and clothes will be washed and aired in places  
“ *completely separated* from the neighbourhood.”

The place thus *separated* from the neighbourhood, is separated from the public street only by a wall. The adjacent lands are covered with buildings, and if it be a fact that the linen, beds, and clothes, of an epidemic fever-ward can be washed and aired in a small yard, containing perhaps fifty or sixty superficial square yards so situated, without making the air unwholesome, it is a circumstance we believe only known to a learned few.

We are next informed, “ that it has been shewn  
 “ by the observations of Dr. Russell and Mr.  
 “ Howard, that the effluvia of patients in the  
 “ plague itself, are incapable of infecting at the  
 “ distance *of a very few yards.*”

The services and labours of Dr. Russell and Mr. Howard will always be remembered with gratitude and respect ; but if Dr. Russell and Mr. Howard were both here, we presume they would not say that their opinions were to be taken in preference to, and in direct opposition of, the legislature of these realms in solemn assembly with paternal care watching over and protecting the safety of the people. This opinion of the legislature may be taken from the 29th of G. II. c. 8. which enacts,  
 “ That all vessels being to the northward of Cape  
 “ Finisterre having the plague on board, were by  
 “ the act of the 26th of G. II. to repair to the  
 “ harbour of New Grimsby, in Scilly ; but it  
 “ now appears that the harbour of New Grimsby  
 “ is an *improper* and *dangerous* place for the re-

“ ception of ships or vessels infected with the  
 “ plague, *by reason* that the same lies between  
 “ the islands of Tresco and Bryers, both *fully*  
 “ *inhabited*.”

To do away which danger the same act enacts,  
 “ That, owing to the harbour of New Grimsby  
 “ being situated in an inhabited place, all vessels  
 “ so infected shall in future repair to St. Helen’s  
 “ Pool, between the *uninhabited* islands of St.  
 “ Helen’s, Jean, and North Withells.”

It seems from hence that the legislature thought that the bringing of infectious disease *near* the people was dangerous ; the laws of quarantine will give ample testimony on this head, and the caution taken of fumigating letters coming from countries having frequently epidemic diseases, will shew the general opinion ; and the recent instance of the care of government respecting the yellow fever in America, will confirm it. The following note on infection, we had from a gentleman whose science and practice will not be deemed second to any man.

“ It is a known fact, that when the typhous pre-  
 “ vails in Newgate, the neighbouring inhabitants  
 “ who keep small shops, alehouses, &c. often  
 “ receive the infection, at the time of the sessions,  
 “ from the prisoners who are acquitted at the Old  
 “ Bailey, and who have either been ill themselves,  
 “ or confined in the same apartments with the  
 “ sick, calling, on their discharge, to purchase  
 “ some of the articles in which they deal.”

It is next stated, that these important objects  
 “ may be obtained without a great degree of ex-  
 “ pence, though the calculation be formed on the  
 “ present high number of fever patients,” say one  
 hundred and seventy eight.

To obtain so desirable an end as that proposed,  
 the opulent and generous town of Manchester  
 would not look at the expence whether great or  
 small. The site of the present intended house of  
 recovery, is such as needs no explanation, being  
 generally known ; it is incapable of receiving one  
 hundred and seventy eight patients in any way ;  
 and we trust the candour of the medical committee  
 is such, that they will admit that wholesome air,  
 and an house not crowded, are both useful and  
 necessary for the recovery of fever.

We cannot resist expressing what our feelings  
 at this moment are ; we think one hundred and  
 seventy eight persons in an epidemic fever, are  
 unfit to be combined in the fully inhabited part  
 of any town. We likewise think that wards fit  
 to receive one hundred and seventy-eight fever  
 patients, (the quantity held out to the public  
 claiming attention) require very extensive build-  
 ings, such as cannot be upon the intended site ;  
 therefore if the present plan be pursued, it must  
 either be prosecuted with inefficacious effects, or  
 so crowded as to render the disease fatally malig-  
 nant to the unhappy objects of intended relief.

We know that to hazard opinions contrary to



medical men, on medical questions, will be deemed presumptuous, but we claim to ourselves a right to discuss public questions with freedom and candour, and if our arguments have no weight, they need no refutation. Respecting our private interests, and the law of the land in the case, we shall at present be silent, supposing that from enlightened minds we shall by a just statement of facts, produce all that an upright jury would give, and we prefer this mode, admiring the intention but disapproving the means.

We are all aware it will be urged, that it is far more easy to find fault with an intended plan than to produce a better, we admit, but as far as we are able we shall endeavour to do this away.

We are told, that it is in contemplation to erect an hospital for the sick poor, at a convenient and proper distance from the present poor house, and as that house has been sometimes troubled with the disease in question, namely fever, to have fever-wards in this intended hospital.

The poor house is situated on airy ground, distant from the town, well situated, and if fever-wards are there built, why not extend the plan and make them commodious for the whole poor? for without question this present intended house of recovery, can only be supposed for the use of the poor, for those who are able to remain in their own houses, and procure relief if afflicted with this terrible disease, will not quit their comfortable



habitations for a lazar house. If it be urged that this would bring additional expence upon the poor rates by introducing those afflicted with fever, who do not belong to the parish, the answer is obvious; by the present humane laws respecting the poor, such a person so afflicted if unable to support himself, and resident with us, though not belonging to the parish, *must* be supported by the parish, till he can be removed with safety and convenience; therefore in what part of it he is protected is no object as to expence, but a most material one as to the general health of the town, and if not belonging to the parish, or resident therein under the circumstances described, he may be introduced by the recommendation of a subscriber, the same in one place as another.

With the greatest respect we subscribe ourselves,  
 Gentlemen,  
 your most obedient  
 and humble servants.

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Manchester, 6th April, 1796.

### BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT a Meeting held this day at the Bridgewater Arms Inn, the following Report was received from the Committee nominated at the last Meeting.

*To the General Committee of the Board of Health.*

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR committee “appointed to prepare an  
 “answer to the memorial, presented by Mr. Nor-  
 “ris and Mr. Ollivant,” have considered the ob-  
 jections which that paper contains, with all the  
 care and deliberation due to the importance of the  
 subject, and to the number of respectable persons  
 who have annexed their signatures to it.

Your committee are happy to observe, that the  
 utility of the views of the board of health, is  
 admitted in its utmost extent, by the framers of the  
 memorial, in these words: “we beg leave, in the  
 “first instance, to state to you our most hearty  
 “concurrence in the humane intention of abating,  
 “as far as possible, the ravages of that dreadful  
 “disease (the fever); and likewise, that, if the  
 “plan adopted to carry so salutary an intention  
 “into execution, be likely to produce the end  
 “proposed, we shall not be found wanting to con-  
 “tribute thereto.”

If therefore, it shall appear, that the plan ob-  
 jected to in the memorial is not the plan proposed  
 by the board of health; that some of the facts  
 mentioned in the memorial are erroneously stated,  
 and that others are directly favourable to the real  
 plan of the board, and fatal to the plan contained

in the memorial; your committee trust, that those who have given their signatures from misinformation, will not only withdraw their opposition, but will lend their support to the board of health, as they have pledged themselves to do, in the passage above quoted.

Your committee think it unnecessary to animadvert on the first observations contained in the memorial, which tend to shew, that an epidemic fever exists in the town and neighbourhood, because that fact has been already established by the publications of the board of health.

The framers of the memorial proceed to observe; “ the medical committee have very candidly admitted” ‘ that some degree of alarm may be excited in the the neighbourhood’ (of the house of recovery) “ to do away which they report” ‘ that there will be no access to, nor communication with, the patients in the wards.’ “ We presume “ that neither caution to persuade against, nor “ bars to resist the approach of wards thus inhabited, will be necessary to restrain those from “ visiting them whose duty, does not immediately “ call them thereto.

“ But is it the intention of the committee, that “ the public shall take this quoted passage literally “ as expressed; that no access shall be permitted? “ if so, patient adieu!

“ If, that the access shall be only for the nurses “ and domestics of the house, will the medical

“ committee be so good as to inform us, that they  
 “ can prevent those domestics from a communica-  
 “ tion with the neighbourhood, full charged,  
 “ through their whole dress, with the effluvia of  
 “ a fever-ward?”

On the want of candour apparent in one part of this extract, your committee will make no comment. To the latter part, they reply, that the plan of secluding patients has been pursued with complete success, in the fever-wards of the infirmary, when contagion has been casually introduced there, and that no instance has occurred of any person in the infirmary being re-infected from the fever-wards. What has been already effected, it is reasonable to hope, may be effected again. And as the experience of several years has shewn, that the fever-wards of the infirmary operate as a protection against febrile contagion to that charity, we have a right to conclude, that the house of recovery will, in like manner, protect, instead of injuring its neighbourhood.

The public is already in possession of Dr. Haygarth's testimony on this subject. The low fever has been not only prevented from spreading in the hospital and the neighbourhood, but nearly extirpated at Chester, by removing the sick into the fever-wards of the infirmary.

Your committee must likewise remark, that contagious fevers have subsisted to an alarming degree for several years, in the immediate neigh-

bourhood of the house of recovery. Portland-street, Silver-street, and some adjoining streets, contained at one time thirty infected houses, during the present epidemic, and in former years, many more houses have been infected there at the same time. Every lodging house in the neighbourhood of the house of recovery, may be truly called a lazaretto, from which persons are daily issuing into the streets, whose clothes are loaded with contagious effluvia, because no pains are taken by the inhabitants to purify themselves, or their houses. But no patients will be dismissed from the house of recovery, till they are thoroughly cleansed, and freed from the danger of infecting others.

The nurses of the house of recovery, will be constantly employed in attendance on the patients; they will be obliged to observe scrupulous cleanliness in their persons; the rooms and wards will be well ventilated, and always kept clean; and the circumstances of the house will be in all respects dissimilar to those cells in which contagion is formed and extended.

Besides, if the dread of fever-wards will prevent visitors from approaching them, as the memorial states, the same dread will deter persons in the neighbourhood from an intercourse with the nurses and servants.

From all these considerations, your committee are fully persuaded that benefit, instead of injury, will be produced by the house of recovery to its



neighbourhood, which has long been exposed, without a murmur, to all the hazards arising from infection, carelessness, and filth.

It should not be forgotten, that if the board of health had not engaged these houses, they would have been let to poor families, among whom the common causes of fever would, in all probability, have soon introduced that disease, with much more danger to the vicinity, than even the terror expressed in the memorial can ascribe to the house of recovery: and that last year, when they were thus inhabited, infectious fevers actually prevailed in them.

Your committee also wish to observe, that if this refinement on the suspicion of danger, displayed in the memorial, were admitted, it would extend to the prohibition of all attempts to relieve the sick poor. An excessive attention to self-preservation would thus be substituted, for the generous intention of providing for our own safety, by procuring the safety of others, while the history of all epidemic contagions proves, that at such times the health of individuals can only be secured by vigorous exertions to guard the health of the community.

You committee are obliged to remark, that even the situation and appendages of the house of recovery, are erroneously described in the memorial.

“ We are next informed,” say the framers of the memorial, “ that their (the patients) linen, beds,

“ and clothes, will be washed and aired in places  
 “ completely separated from the neighbourhood.  
 “ The place thus separated from the neighbour-  
 “ hood, is separated from the public street only  
 “ by a wall. The adjacent lands are completely  
 “ covered with buildings, and if it be a fact, that  
 “ the linen, beds, and clothes of an epidemic  
 “ fever-ward can be washed and aired in a small  
 “ yard, containing perhaps fifty or sixty superficial  
 “ square yards, so situated, without making the  
 “ air unwholesome, it is a circumstance we believe  
 “ only known to a learned few.”

On these objections, your committee wish to  
 remark, that the house of recovery is not con-  
 nected with any other buildings; that there is a  
 considerable space vacant on each side, which  
 cannot be built upon, without the consent of the  
 trustees of the infirmary, to whom the ground  
 belongs; and that it is bounded behind, by the  
 high wall of the lunatic hospital. The yard,  
 which the memorial states as containing between  
 fifty and sixty superficial square yards, contains  
 by survey, upwards of two hundred square yards;  
 and in front, the broad space of Portland-street,  
 effectually separates it from the opposite houses.

The drying of the patients clothes, previously  
 purified by washing, &c. cannot render the air of  
 a large open space unwholesome. The wall was  
 mentioned as a precaution, not against real danger,  
 but against the apprehension of danger.

The framers of the memorial next say ; “ the services and labours of Dr. Russel and Mr. Howard, will always be remembered with gratitude and respect; but if Dr. Russel and Mr. Howard were both here, we presume they would not say that their opinions were to be taken in preference to, and in direct opposition of the legislature of these realms, in solemn assembly, with paternal care watching over and protecting the safety of the subject.”

With every possible degree of respect for the legislature, your committee must inform the framers of the memorial, that both Dr. Russel and Mr. Howard have objected to several parts of the laws relating to quarantine, because some of these laws were formed on the opinions of medical men, reasoning on a disease which they had never seen. Dr. Russel and Mr. Howard, on the contrary, by personal observation, had opportunities of ascertaining facts, and of correcting the errors of former writers. Dr. Russel has objected, in particular, to the act quoted in the memorial; and Mr. Howard has strongly recommended the establishment of fever-wards, and even pointed out regulations for them.

Your committee may add, to shew the moderation with which the report of the medical committee was formed, that Dr. Russel says, he frequently examined patients in the plague, when

they had eruptions, at the distance of four or five feet only, yet he never was infected.

It may be likewise added, that in most of the great towns on the coast of the Mediterranean, which are exposed more immediately to the importation of the plague, the lazaretto is always situated within, or nearly adjoining to the town.

But when the great difference in virulence between the contagion of the plague, and that of our common low fever, is considered, it is evident that the argument of danger cannot be deduced, from the plague to the fever, even though the assertions in the memorial had been just.

The framers of the memorial have next produced a quotation from Dr. Fothergill, which supports the opinion of the medical committee, and Board of Health.

“ It is a known fact,” say they, “ that when  
 “ the typhus (low fever) prevails in Newgate,  
 “ the neighbouring inhabitants, who keep small  
 “ shops, alehouses, &c. often receive the infec-  
 “ tion at the time of the sessions, from the pri-  
 “ soners who are acquitted at the Old Bailey, and  
 “ who have either been ill themselves, or confined  
 “ in the same apartments with the sick, calling on  
 “ their discharge, to purchase some of the articles  
 “ in which they deal.”

This fact shews that, as the medical committee have asserted, fevers are propagated by individual contagion; for if effluvia could infect, from the

windows or doors of a building, where fever-patients are confined, then the neighbourhood of Newgate should be infected before the discharge of the prisoners. But the prisoners come out with infected clothes. Here, then, is an argument for the house of recovery, from which the patients will be dismissed clean, and incapable of infecting others. It appears, from the observation of the physicians to the infirmary, that fevers are frequently communicated in Manchester, by the resort of persons with infected clothes to small shops.

Your committee perfectly agree with the framers of the memorial, in their opinion of the liberality and spirit of the town of Manchester; and they certainly perceive nothing in the plan proposed by the Board of Health, calculated to narrow it. But in a matter so important to the public, and so new in several respects, it is surely prudent to proceed with caution, and by experiencing the benefits of the scheme on a smaller scale, to be enabled to recommend an extension with confidence and success.

To the next observation of the framers of the memorial; that the house of recovery “is incapable of receiving one hundred and seventy-eight patients in any way;” and that “one hundred and seventy-eight persons in an epidemic fever, are unfit to be combined, in the fully inhabited part of any town;” your committee reply, that



it never was intended by the board of health, to bring together the whole fever-patients on the infirmary lists, so that the whole objection founded on this supposition, falls to the ground. It has been fully explained to the public, in a paper drawn up at the request of the Board of Health, by Dr. Ferriar, that the intention is to remove patients infected with fever, only from situations in which they are likely to spread the contagion among a numerous family, or from houses which, having been long infected, cannot be freed from contagion, without clearing them of the sick. Upon considering the probable number of cases which would require removal, at the meeting of the medical committee, it was agreed that twenty-five was the highest number which could be expected to be in the house, in order to prevent the infection of very considerable numbers within the districts. For this number, the buildings in question will afford ample accommodation; and it must be recollected, that the greatest number of patients proposed to be admitted in the house of recovery, is less than the number of families known to have been infected at one time, in Portland-street, and the neighbourhood. At present, when the season is approaching, which generally mitigates the epidemic, it may not be necessary to receive more than fifteen patients upon an average. Your committee are persuaded, that even on this scale, the frequency of fever will be considerably diminished;

and that whenever it is thought proper to extend the plan, it may be done more effectually, and more advantageously, in consequence of the degree of prior experience.

Your committee, therefore, must strenuously object to the plan proposed in the memorial, of connecting extensive fever-wards with an hospital, which, the framers of the memorial say, is to be erected near the poor-house. In a town like Manchester, the idea of immediately extirpating fevers, is impracticable. But it is easy for the infirmary physicians, who are always engaged among the sick poor, to distinguish the most striking cases, in which the removal of one person will prevent the infection of many. To throw the whole number of infected poor into the immediate vicinity of the parish paupers, to quiet the groundless fears of individuals, would, upon the reasoning of the memorial, be an act of oppression unworthy of this great and respectable town. The fever-wards, upon that reasoning, would be regarded by the sick, and their friends, with horror; and the unfortunate inhabitants of the work-house, would feel their exposure as an insult, in which the general feelings of humanity were sacrificed to the imaginary interests of a few.

Your committee farther observe, that were the Board of Health to relinquish the present house of recovery, they could not expect to establish it in any other situation, because some opposition might

every where be made on the pretences stated in the memorial. There is no assurance, that the proprietors in the neighbourhood of the poor-house would consent to the plan; and while many subscribers to the memorial, would find the feverwards removed to no greater distance from themselves by the alteration, others would discover that they were brought nearer to their property and places of abode, than the present situation of the house of recovery. If besides we grant, that as the framers of the memorial state, upon so very extensive a plan as they propose, it would be nearly impossible to prevent infection from being carried abroad by some of the numerous servants, who would be only under the direction of the parish officers, the proposal of the framers of the memorial may be destroyed by their own arguments.

Respecting the implied threat of a process at law, your committee entertain no apprehension. Conscious of acting from the best intentions, and upon the best grounds of knowledge which they can procure, they are satisfied that the house of recovery can never be regarded by a jury of their countrymen, either as a public or private nuisance.

JOHN CLOWES, Chairman.

April 4, 1796.

*It was moved, seconded, and unanimously resolved,*

I. That the thanks of this meeting are due to the gentlemen, who have prepared the above memorial.

II. That the said be laid before the public, with the following prefatory remarks, and conclusion: and that a number of copies, not fewer than 1500, be printed for immediate distribution.

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Bridgewater-Arms, April 6th, 1796.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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THE committee of the board of health have employed themselves assiduously, in the execution of the important trust reposed in them. And they hope it will appear to the friends of this philanthropic institution, that their exertions have been conducted with propriety, and are likely to be crowned with success. One of the first objects which engaged their attention, because the most pressing, was the alleviation of the low fever, so prevalent in the town and neighbourhood of Manchester, and the adoption of the best means of preventing its propagation. To the accomplishment of these purposes they have deemed it *essential*, that a house of recovery should be provided, for the reception of such of the sick, as

are peculiar objects of recommendation, either on account of their extreme penury, or of the closeness and crowded state of their habitations. And as these patients are to be included in the system of the dispensary, to be attended by the physicians of the hospital, and to be furnished with medicines and wine from that charity, the committee have thought themselves fortunate in being able to procure accommodations within its precincts, in an open and airy situation, and so insulated, as to obviate all danger of the communication of infection. But before any great progress had been made in the prosecution of this plan, Mr. Norris and Mr. Ollivant stated their objections to it, on account of the alarm excited in the neighbourhood, from the apprehension of febrile contagion. The committee, therefore, requested the physicians and surgeons of the infirmary to take these objections into consideration; and the result was communicated in the following report.

#### MEDICAL COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the medical committee, held at the infirmary, this 9th day of March, 1796. *Vid. Report of the Medical Committee, page 44.*

This report was transmitted to Mr. Norris, and Mr. Ollivant; but has not quieted their apprehensions, nor indeed been duly regarded. For a memorial was delivered by these gentlemen to the committee, on Wednesday the 30th of March, which



made no reference to it, and which contained a repetition of their original objections, with other erroneous statements, founded on prejudice or misconception. To these statements it was thought necessary to offer a full reply; and a sub-committee was appointed to execute the undertaking, who have this day delivered the following Counter Memorial. *Vide* page 93.

The committee having heard with attention, and duly considered the foregoing reply, unanimously agree that it shall be adopted, and that copies of it shall be sent to all the trustees of the board of health, and of the infirmary, and to the several gentlemen who have supported, by their signatures, the representations of the memorial, to which it refers. Confiding in the good sense, and the candour of their fellow-townsmen, they assure themselves that groundless prejudices will be no longer entertained against the plan which they have framed, nor obstacles opposed to its speedy and complete accomplishment. In projecting it, they have solicitously regarded the common interests, and feelings both of the poor, and of the rich; and in its execution, they have been aided by such medical and legal counsel, as fully satisfies them, that no injury to health, or infringement of the laws of property, can be involved in their undertaking.

Adjourned to Wednesday next at seven o'clock in the evening.

Manchester, April 13, 1796.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT a Meeting of the Committee, held this day at the Bridgewater Arms, the following propositions delivered by Dr. Percival, were read.

I. That the physicians of the infirmary shall be authorized to give one or two shillings, (by a ticket to the secretary of the board of health) to the person who shall furnish the earliest information of the appearance of fever, in any poor family within the limits of their respective districts.

II. That as soon as the secretary has received this ticket, he shall apply, or take care that application be made, to some trustee of the board of health, living within the district, and who is a subscriber to the infirmary, for an immediate recommendation of the sick person as a home-patient.

III. That such patients as the physicians shall deem peculiar objects of recommendation, either on account of their extreme poverty, or of the close and crowded state of their habitations, shall be conveyed in a sedan chair, provided and kept for the sole purpose, and distinguished by proper marks, to the house of recovery.

IV. That the physicians shall be requested to form the necessary medical regulations for the

domestic government of the families of the home-patients, afflicted with fever.

V. That a reward to the amount of        shall be given to the heads of the family, after the cessation of the fever, on condition that they have faithfully observed the rules prescribed for cleanliness, ventilation, and the prevention of infection amongst their neighbours. This reward shall be doubled, in cases of extraordinary danger, and when the attentions have been adequate and successful.

VI. That after the visitation of fever has ceased in any poor dwelling house, the sum of        or a sufficient sum shall be allowed to be expended (under the direction of an inspector) for white-washing, and cleansing the premises, and for the purchase of new bed-clothes or apparel, in lieu of such as it may be deemed necessary to destroy, in order to obviate the continuance, or propagation of contagion.

VII. That an inspector shall be appointed in each district of the infirmary, to aid the execution, and to enforce the observance of the foregoing regulations. And that the gentlemen of the Strangers' Friend Society shall be requested to undertake this office.

*It was resolved,*

I. That Geo. Lloyd, and R. James, Esquires, be requested to make out a statement of the case, between Mr. Norris and the Board of Health, and

to transmit it to Sir John Scott for his opinion thereon.

II. That Mr. Robinson be requested to draw a plan of the premises, on a proper scale, to elucidate the above statement.

III. That the propositions delivered by Dr. Percival, be referred to the next meeting, and that a copy of the same be sent to the physicians of the infirmary.

IV. That the counter memorial be printed in the three Manchester news-papers.

V. That 500 more copies of the counter memorial be immediately printed.

Adjourned to Wednesday next at four o'clock in the afternoon.

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Manchester, April 20, 1796.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT a Meeting of the Committee, held this day at the Bridgewater Arms, the following extracts of letters from Dr. Haygarth of Chester, communicated by Dr. Percival, were received, and read.

Chester, 29th Dec. 1794.

“ A typhous fever became very epidemical among the poor in Chester, about the time it began in Manchester. Our fever-wards in the infirmary

became crowded to a greater degree than they have been since the establishment of this regulation, near a dozen years ago. But these measures have checked the progress of the epidemic, very few fever-patients are now heard of in the whole town. The regulations proposed by your physicians will undoubtedly be of service, but, in my mind, are inadequate to cure the malady; they will very incompletely check the progress of the epidemic. A fever hospital annexed to your infirmary, to hold about 20 patients of each sex, would save a multitude of lives, in your populous town. Your physicians, who visit the home-patients, are exposed to imminent danger of contagion. In a well ventilated clean hospital, the medical attendant is not, I apprehend, liable to infection. I am, and have been, for several years collecting facts, to illustrate various questions relative to this interesting subject."

I am, &c.

J. HAYGARTH.

Chester, 19th April, 1796.

"HAVING returned much fatigued from a long journey to-day, I shall be unable to write distinct answers to your enquiries by this post. At present, I can only observe in general, that very considerable numbers of patients, of both sexes, have been admitted into the fever-wards of our infirmary, within the last five years. A



large proportion of these fever-patients were soldiers of new raised Irish regiments, many of them taken out of jails. Many women, attendants on these regiments sick of fever, were also admitted into our fever-wards. About twelve years ago, our fever-wards were much crowded by the poor inhabitants of Chester. But the regulation of admitting our fellow-citizens as soon as infected, has prevented the propagation of contagion, so that no general typhous epidemic has spread in Chester, since that period.

In a former letter I assured you, that *no person had been infected by any contagion communicated from the fever-wards*, during the whole period of their existence, now twelve years.”\*

J. HAYGARTH.

*It was resolved,*

That the above extracts, together with the following prefatory address, be printed in the three Manchester news-papers.

The committee have thought it advisable to lay the above extracts before the public, in order to shew that they have not been governed in the measures, which they have adopted by mere *opinion*, as has been alledged, but by WELL AUTHENTICATED FACTS, and LONG EXPERIENCE.

Adjourned to Monday next at 12 o'clock.

\* Your plan for conveying fever-patients in a sedan chair, appropriated to that purpose, is extremely judicious; and I would recommend that it should have a moveable lining, to be taken out and exposed to the fresh air, and occasionally washed.

*Regulations for the Admission of Patients into the  
House of Recovery.*

The propositions laid before the Board of Health, April 13th, by Dr. Percival, were unanimously adopted. *Vid.* page 108.

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*Internal Regulations for the House of Recovery.*

I. Every patient on admission, shall change his infectious, for clean linen: the face and hands are to be washed clean with lukewarm water, and the lower extremities fomented.

II. The clothes brought into the house by patients, shall be properly purified and aired.

III. All linen and bed clothes, immediately on being removed from the bodies of the patients, shall be immersed in cold water, before they are carried down stairs.

IV. All discharges from the patients, shall be removed from the wards without delay.

V. The floors of the wards shall be carefully washed twice a-week, and near the beds every day.

VI. Quicklime shall be slaked in large open vessels, in every ward, and renewed whenever it ceases to bubble on the affusion of water. The walls and roofs shall be frequently washed with this mixture.

VII. No relation or acquaintance shall be per-

mitted to visit the wards, without particular orders from one of the physicians.

VIII. No strangers shall be admitted into the wards; and the nurses shall be strictly enjoined not to receive unnecessary visits.

IX. No linen or clothes shall be removed from the house of recovery, till they have been washed, aired, and freed from infection.

X. No convalescents shall be discharged from the house, without a consultation of the physicians.

XI. The nurses and servants of the house, shall have no direct communication with the infirmary; but shall receive the medicines in the room already appropriated to messengers from the home-patients.

XII. The committee of the Strangers' Friend Society shall be requested to undertake the office of inspecting the house of recovery.

XIII. A weekly report of the patients admitted and discharged, shall be published in the Manchester news-papers.

XIV. When a patient dies in the wards, the body shall be removed as soon as possible, into a room appropriated to that use; it shall then be wrapt in a pitched cloth, and the friends shall be desired to proceed to the interment as early as is consistent with propriety.

XV. That all provisions and attendance for the patients in this house of recovery, shall be provided

from the funds of this institution, without any communication with the infirmary.

*It was unanimously resolved,*

That the above regulations of the house of recovery, be published in the three Manchester news-papers, and that number of the same be printed, and sent to the subscribers to this institution.

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Manchester, 29th April, 1796.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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At a general Meeting held this day, at the Bridgewater Arms,

*The following Resolutions were unanimously passed.*

I. That it is a *primary* object of the Board of Health, to use the most strenuous endeavours to check, *without delay*, the *present*, and to prevent the *future* ravages of the typhous fever, so fatally prevalent in the town and neighbourhood of Manchester.

II. That the providing a house of recovery, *with as little loss of time as possible*, for the reception of such of the sick as are peculiar objects of recommendation, either on account of their extreme poverty, or of the closeness and crowded

state of their habitations, is essential to the accomplishment of these humane purposes.

III. That the institution of the house of recovery, being included in the general system of the dispensary, is under the *special medical direction* of the gentlemen of the faculty, belonging to the infirmary; who, from their offices, must be supposed to enjoy the public confidence, and to be the best judges of whatever is likely to prove beneficial or injurious to the several classes of patients actually entrusted to their care.

IV. That it is of the highest importance, that the house of recovery should be situated within the precincts of the hospital; not only that the patients may be visited more frequently, and with greater convenience by the physicians; but that the house may be under constant inspection and superintendence; and that the physicians' clerk may be able to afford immediate assistance, in cases of sudden danger or emergency.

V. That the house of recovery has not only these peculiar advantages, but that it is also situated on an area, including more than thirty-eight thousand square yards, (according to Mr. Green's plan) unoccupied by any other buildings, except those appertaining to the infirmary.

VI. That the board have had the fullest evidence, from *well authenticated facts*, and *long experience* at Chester, that an asylum for fever pa-



tients may be so conducted, as to be perfectly innoxious to the inhabitants in its vicinity.

VII. That, impressed with a conviction of these truths, the board have observed, with surprize and concern, the alarm which has been taken at so important, so salutary, and, as they believe, so unexceptionable a part of their undertaking. Yet sensible of the force and diffusive nature of fear, even though unfounded, and paying due attention to the feelings, as well as to the opinions of many respectable fellow citizens, they are willing, from *motives of conciliation*, to relinquish the present situation of the house of recovery, whenever another more eligible shall be provided.

VIII. That this board do authorize the committee to receive proposals respecting any other situation.

IX. That the seeretary do transmit a copy of the proceedings of this day to John Leaf, Esq. chairman of the meeting of gentlemen, held at the Bridgewater-Arms, on the 20th of April, 1796.

X. That the following statement, relative to the fever-wards at Chester, received yesterday from *indubitable authority*, be annexed to the above resolutions.

Signed by order of the board,

THOs. B. BAYLEY, Chairman.

## CHESTER FEVER-WARDS.

The Chester infirmary is a close square building, the inner area being eighteen yards and a half, by fourteen yards. The attic story of all the north side of the house, divided into two wards; has been appropriated to the reception of patients in infectious and other fevers, ever since the year 1784. Patients, who have no fever, are lodged *under* the fever-wards, and *on* all the other sides of this area. The windows of the fever-wards, during the day, are almost constantly open into all the other wards. One ward is situated *within thirteen yards* of the fever-patients, with whom it communicates on the same floor, by a passage and doors frequently open; and yet, during the whole period of this establishment, (now above twelve years) it has *never* been *even* suspected, that the patients in other parts of the house have *caught any infection* from the *fever-wards*, by any contamination of the atmosphere; or from any transgression of the *rules of prevention*: which require ventilation, cleanliness, and separation; and may be seen in *Howard's* account of lazarettos.

Manchester, 4th May, 1796.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

At a Meeting of the committee held this day, at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following resolutions, transmitted by John Leaf, Esq. to T. B. Bayley, Esq. their chairman, were read, and ordered to be entered in the journal.

The committee appointed at a meeting of gentlemen, held at the Bridgewater-Arms on the 20th of April last, for the protection of the towns of Manchester and Salford, against the establishment of wards for the reception of patients afflicted with contagious fever in *any* fully inhabited part of the said towns, have this day assembled to take into consideration the resolutions of the Board of Health on the 29th ult. transmitted to J. Leaf, Esq. their chairman.

*It is resolved unanimously,*

I. That the principle upon which they were appointed by the gentlemen assembled on the 20th of April 1796, viz. “ The protection of the towns  
“ of Manchester and Salford from the establish-  
“ ment of wards for the reception of patients af-  
“ flicted with contagious fever in any fully inha-  
“ bited part of the said towns,” will be strictly adhered to.

II. That in the discharge of this trust, they are convinced they draw with them the wishes of a very large majority of the inhabitants of the said towns of Manchester and Salford.

III. That as the attainment of that object as above stated, was the sole cause of the meeting of the 20th of April, they observe with attention the following clause of the seventh resolution of the Board of Health thus expressed: " They are  
 " willing from motives of conciliation to relin-  
 " quish the present situation of the house of re-  
 " covery, whenever another more eligible shall be  
 " provided."

IV. That whenever it shall be declared by the Board of Health to the Chairman of this committee, that that Board have given up their preparations to carry the present intended fever-house into effect, and that they have laid aside any intention of combining patients afflicted with contagious fever in any fully inhabited part of the towns of Manchester or Salford; then this committee will join their best endeavours to assist in executing the desirable measure of attempting the abatement of fever, by wards for fever-patients, in such place as may be judged safe to the inhabitants of the said towns.

V. That until such resolutions as above described be declared by the Board of Health to the Chairman of this committee, this committee hold themselves responsible to the public for the discharge of the trust reposed in them.

VI. That these resolutions be transmitted to the Chairman of the Board of Health, and published.

JOHN LEAF, Chairman.

The following resolutions, presented by Dr. Percival, were then read.

#### COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The Chairman having reported certain resolutions, transmitted to him by John Leaf, Esq. which were passed at a committee of gentlemen, held at the Bridgewater Arms on the 2d instant; the same were read, and, being attentively considered, the following resolutions were unanimously voted.

I. That this committee have not attempted to establish wards for the reception of patients afflicted with contagious fever, in any fully inhabited part of Manchester or Salford, nor ever had such a design in contemplation.

II. That the house of recovery, which they have provided, is remote from the centre, and only at a small distance from the extremity of the town; that it is in a situation peculiarly open and airy; unconnected with other inhabited buildings; and within the premises of the infirmary, which were transferred, by the Lord of the Manor, for the express purpose of affording accommodations for the sick poor, long before the greater part of the



dwelling-houses were erected in that district of Manchester.

III. That the committee hold themselves pledged not to abandon the trust reposed in them by their constituents, and by the public, of alleviating, by the most speedy and appropriate means which are practicable, the complicated evils, which now oppress the poor inhabitants of Manchester; and which, by delay, are likely to become more alarming and fatal.

IV. That they indulged the hope of receiving from the committee of gentlemen, to whom the late resolutions of the Board of Health, dated April 29th, were communicated, some plan for the relief of existing, and the prevention of future evils, as an adequate substitute for the house of recovery, which they expressed their readiness to relinquish, when another more eligible asylum should be provided.

V. That though disappointed in this reasonable expectation, they are happy in the full sanction which has been given, by the gentlemen of that committee, to the principle of the measure adopted by the Board of Health, in their acknowledgment that it is desirable to attempt the abatement of fever, by wards, for fever-patients, in such places as may be judged safe to the inhabitants of Manchester and Salford.

VI. That the Board of Health, having authorized their committee to receive proposals respecting

any other situation, they give this public intimation, that as the house of recovery will not be completely ready for the reception of patients till the middle of next week, they will pay due attention to any proposal that may be made, in the intermediate time, either in writing or by personal conference, which may tend to a general union in the accomplishment of an undertaking, deeply interesting to every class of men in this populous town and neighbourhood.

Ordered, That the Chairman do transmit the resolutions of this committee to John Leaf, Esq.

Signed, by desire of the committee,

T. B. BAYLEY, Chairman.

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The following paper having been communicated to the committee, it is ordered to be printed.

A PAPER having been circulated, written by Mr. White, which tends to give the public erroneous impressions respecting the house of recovery ; it may be proper to rectify some misrepresentations of facts and opinions contained in it, although the subject is of a nature purely medical.

Altercations of this kind seldom produce much benefit to the public ; but the present opinion is so brought forward, as to challenge notice from the friends of the institution ; and we shall endeavour to reply, with all the candour that ought to accompany public discussion.

The paper consists chiefly of quotations, some of which are not applicable, and others are at variance with the inferences drawn from them. This will appear in a striking light from the following passages. The quotation from Dr. Smyth, in page 2, only proves, that a fatal fever prevailed at Winchester, without the presence of some symptoms which are commonly supposed to denote malignancy. But this has nothing to do with the question of contagion, either of the plague or of typhus.

In page 4, Mr. W. concludes, " that the state of the air may become infectious." In short, " that it is impossible to decide to what distance " infection may be conveyed." But in page 2, he had observed, respecting the gaol delivery at the Old-Bailey ; " It is clear, that the whole air of the " hall was not infected, because the Lord Chief " Justice, and the Recorder, who sat on the Lord " Mayor's right hand, escaped, while he himself, " with the rest of the bench upon his left hand, " were affected by the contagion. The Middlesex " jury, on the left of the court, were generally " infected, and some died ; whilst the London " jury, opposite to them, received no harm." This fact evidently contradicts the conclusion.

That the common low fever is equally contagious with the plague, is an idea which no man ever advanced before Mr. W. and which he has by no means substantiated. It is surprising that he should

to cite the example of Mr. Howard (page 3) to prove this, since, in the succeeding paragraph, he has denied that we ought to conclude any thing from Dr. Russel's escaping infection, at the distance of four or five feet only. As it is asserted that Dr. Russel, in the course of many years practice at Aleppo, was never pre-disposed to receive the infection, we are at liberty to suppose the same respecting Mr. Howard. If Mr. W. is disposed to admit of Dr. Haygarth's opinion respecting the contagion of plague, he must admit, *a fortiori*, the Doctor's facts and observations concerning the Chester fever-wards, one of which is within thirteen yards of a common ward; yet no instance has occurred of patients in the infirmary being infected from the fever-wards.

The comparative healthiness of Chester, Mr. W. has stated too high. Dr. Haygarth makes the proportion of deaths in the city and suburbs, one in forty; the suburbs being more unhealthy than the parishes within the walls.\*

The other instances, of Dr. Johnstone, and of pupils infected in the clinical wards at Edinburgh, only shew, that the disease may be communicated by contact or near approach. The young gentlemen at the infirmary are liable to receive infection

\* Dr. Haygarth, so long ago as the year 1774, proposed the scheme of removing poor persons in fevers from their own habitations. How happily his proposal has succeeded the public are now enabled to judge.

by contact, when persons come from infected houses, with prescriptions, to the window of the shop : but what proof is there of these persons infecting the air of the streets through which they pass ? Not only Mr. Corbet, but Mr. Thompson, the physicians' clerk, and Mr. Hall, the eldest apprentice, have had dangerous low fevers within the last twelve months, but no person in the infirmary was infected by them, owing to the precautions observed.

Respecting the objections to the removal of fever patients from their own houses, we wish to observe, that those objects whom the infirmary physicians mean to remove, will be found very willing to exchange their situations. At Ashton there is no hospital, and the poor have a sense of nicety, even on the subject of relief from the parish, which does not subsist in Manchester.

The physicians of the infirmary have given it as their opinion, that patients ought to be removed, under particular circumstances : the public will no doubt give them credit for being sufficient judges of those circumstances.

For the precautions regarding the sedan, we refer to the rules of the house of recovery, published last week. The apprehension of infection issuing from the crevices of the sedan, is assumed, in contradiction to all the common rules of ventilation, by which it must appear, that air, rarefied by the respiration of the patient, must ascend up-



wards, and that if there are any crevices in the lower part of the sedan, a current of the external air must rush in, to supply the place of the rarefied air, instead of effluvia issuing outwards.

Dr. Iberti's objections to hospitals, (pages 4 and 5) are not confined to those for infectious fevers, but relate to all hospitals. They only prove, that such institutions ought to be well regulated.

Respecting the situation of lazarettos, Mr. W's. first four quotations prove, that in those instances these buildings are near the city; which was asserted.

The danger to be apprehended from the privies, appears to be much exaggerated. We suspect, that the author has confounded the subject of dysentery with low fever; for authors certainly complain, that camp privies extend dysenteric infection.

To the alarming representations of putrid steams arising up every public and private grate, we would reply, that if any such effluvia could produce mischief, it must have been felt long since, from the great number of persons who are constantly infected with fever in the immediate neighbourhood of the house of recovery; a number which has been known to amount to thirty families in one street.

The faculty of the infirmary have declared the conveniencies of the house of recovery to be sufficient for the welfare of the patients. They

have never asserted that the structure of the houses was on the best plan for a fever ward, and the Board of Health have announced their willingness to relinquish it, whenever a more eligible one shall be provided. Mr. White is not in the habit of attending the poor: otherwise he would have known, that the house of recovery, clean and well regulated as it will be, must be considered as an enviable asylum by the objects for whom it is destined.

Strict regulations having been made for purifying the clothes of the patients, there can be no such danger as the author has suggested, of infected substances being blown out of the windows.

It appears that Mr. W. does not state clearly the reasons for which patients are to be removed. It is intended to remove persons from the midst of cellars, or garrets, over-crowded, or long infected, or destitute of proper ventilation, or from lodging-houses; in all which places, the infection of one person produces diseases in, perhaps, twenty others, and prolongs the reign of the fever for several months in the same spot. It is very common for a single person to be infected, in an airy situation, without communicating the disease to others; but instances could be mentioned, where houses have been infected for years together, and where the removal of the first patient would have checked the disorder in the first weeks.

The objection brought from the infection of

debtors in Stafford-Gaol, whose ward was over the felons, is invalid; for all the prisoners had communication with each other when Mr. Howard visited them, therefore the disease was communicated by contact.

Measures are taking to provide a supply of water for the house of recovery.

Whoever has visited the garrets and cellars inhabited by the sick poor, will hesitate to adopt Mr. W.'s conclusions, (page 8) that a more improper situation could not have been found. The great convenience which the infirmary physicians expect from this establishment, is the diminution of sickness among the industrious poor.

The house of recovery is therefore intended to prevent the "accumulated infection of fever;" and if exact rules, carefully enforced, are preferable to the ignorant negligence of poor families, it must produce good, instead of evil. Indeed Mr. W. has given a direct approbation of the scheme, (at page 10) in these words: "In the former (the infirmary) as soon as the patient is discovered to have febrile symptoms, he is very properly removed from the other patients, to another part of the house, and by this means the accumulation of fever is prevented." This is our plan for the house of recovery. If the removal of a patient from a ward, containing ten or twelve patients, prevents the accumulation of fever; why should

not the removal of a patient from a large family, crowded together in a cellar or garret, prevent the accumulation of fever there also?

But Mr. W. says, "the admission of fever-patients into the house of recovery will be gradual." Certainly. And it will become, we hope, more gradual, more rare, and will often be discontinued from want of patients; for cleanliness will always extinguish infection. The fact quoted from Dr. Monro, (page 10) is strongly in favour of the house of recovery. As soon as he began to remove his infected patients into clean hospitals, the virulence of the disease abated, and at length the contagion ceased. He says, not being able to procure particular houses for the sick of the Coldstream, and for the grenadiers, I distributed them through the different hospitals we had then in town, when the contagion ceased; and by their being thus scattered, while they were kept very clean, and at as great a distance as possible from the other patients (of course not infected) in the wards where they were put, they lost few in proportion to the first and third regiments, and the disorder did not spread."

Dr. Brocklesby's opinion, (page 11) concerning military hospitals, does not bear upon the question, for he does not speak of fever-hospitals. At any rate, it only proves, what we can very readily believe, that hospitals have sometimes been mismanaged.

Dr. Henderson also, (page 11) speaks of the abuse of lazarettos only, and refers entirely to private inconvenience, not to public health.

After considering Mr. W.'s publication, can see no reason for altering the opinion which the Board of Health has adopted, and we are persuaded, that their plan cannot be injurious, *either to individuals, or to the public.*

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*A Letter from Dr. Currie, of Liverpool, communicated by Dr. Percival, was read at the Committee held May 7, 1796.*

TILL the month of November 1786, there was no place for the reception of fever in Liverpool.

At that time, in consequence of obstructed ventilation, fever was generated in one of the wards of the infirmary, used as a Lock Hospital, and sixteen persons caught the infection. In consequence of this, two wards were fitted up for patients, one for each sex, which were afterwards occupied by such cases of fever as offered for admission. It was not expected, except on very particular occasions, that cases of fever should be sent by practitioners on purpose to be placed in these wards; because holding only five beds each, they were not equal to general accommodation: But if a case of fever presented itself accidentally for admission, it was not now rejected as formerly,



if a bed in the fever-wards was vacant; and in several instances where fever spread rapidly, in situations in which it could not be checked, it was arrested in its progress by removing the persons affected into the wards of the infirmary, already mentioned. These instances may be particularized, if required.

Patients in fever were admitted in this manner for five years and upwards; and, by a list taken from the register, it appears, that two hundred and thirteen cases passed through the fever-wards during this interval. In this space of time, there was no instance of the contagion being communicated to the other patients of the house, though on one occasion, an apprehension of this kind was entertained.

But in the course of this period, two pupils of the house and two nurses, caught the infection; and one pupil, and one nurse died.

Our fever-wards were as indifferently constructed, as can well be imagined, for the purpose to which they were devoted. To obviate objections made to the reception of fever, they were several times changed; and, at length, two wards were fixed on in the left wing of the building, and on the ground floor. These were selected, because a direct communication could be obtained between them and the external air, and the patients were conveyed into them without the necessity of using the common stair-case of the

ing. This may be said to have been their only advantage: for, properly speaking, they are cellars. They sink on one side six feet under ground, and on the other four, the ground sloping. They are twenty-one feet square each, and nine feet in height. By proper care, however, they admitted of sufficient ventilation and cleanliness, and no ill effects were experienced from their dampness. They contained each five beds, and occasionally six, and even seven. With all their disadvantages, the benefits derived from them were most important; and the treatment of the patients was attended with a degree of success that was not, perhaps, in any circumstances, been surpassed.

From the first, however, the admission of fever into the infirmary, (which was contrary to one of the original laws) was not approved of by some of the friends of the charity. They acknowledged the great public benefit arising from a receptacle for fever, but they did not think the infirmary was the proper situation—it was erected for other purposes, which the admission of fever interfered with, while the relief derived to the community by its admission into the wards in question, was unequal to the general object. They contended, therefore, that if contagious diseases were to be admitted into an hospital, an institution for this express purpose would be most advantageous. Such an institution it did not, however, seem

prudent to propose at that time, because the fund of the charity was employed on several other public undertakings.

The objections to the admission of fevers into the infirmary, were strengthened by an apprehension that a patient, on whom a surgical operation had been performed, had caught the contagion of fever, though in another building; and by the pupil of one of the surgeons, who had frequented the fever-wards, being seized with symptoms of fever. It was, therefore, agreed to shut up the fever-wards, as soon as another place could be found, where fever patients could be admitted. About the end of the period already mentioned, two large and airy wards were fitted up at the work-house, for fever; and, an arrangement having been made with the parish committee, that such cases of fever as presented themselves at the infirmary should be received into those wards, from that time the reception of fever into the infirmary has ceased.

The wards in the work-house are divided from each other by a partition, six feet two inches high; but over this partition the air passes freely.

They are each forty feet in length, twenty-three in breadth, and nine and a quarter in height. They are in every point of accommodation unexceptionable, but the only access to them is through the great stair-case, common to the whole building, and immediately over them is the nursery.

at present inhabited by sixty children. These wards have been fitted up under the direction of the physicians of the dispensary, by whom they are attended; and notwithstanding the circumstances already mentioned, I have the authority of Dr. Rutter, Dr. Mac Cartney, and Dr. Renwick, for saying, they have no reason to believe that, in a single instance, the contagion has been communicated from them to the other parts of the building. These wards contain each at present sixteen beds, but on an emergency they might hold each two more. In walking through them, no effluvia are perceived. They are as little offensive to the smell as any private apartment. Exactly in the centre, between the two wards, is the apartment of the two nurses, separated from the patients on each side by a partition six feet two inches high, as has already been described, but open all round from that height to the roof. One of the present nurses has lived there eighteen months, the other four. I enquired of them, if either of them had been infected, and they assured me they had not.

These facts need no comment!

It may, however, be easily conceived, that wards of this dimension, though equal to the usual demands for admission, cannot afford the extraordinary relief which the prevalence of fever among the poor at particular seasons must require and, on the other hand, if a building is to be

erected for this express purpose, every one will agree that it is better it should be wholly detached from every other.

At the last annual vestry, therefore, a favourable opportunity occurring for moving the business, it was proposed that a building for the more complete accommodation for fever-patients should be erected by the parish in the vicinity of the work-house, allowing the present fever-wards to be applied to other important purposes. If all ostentation were avoided, it was contended that, this might be erected at a very moderate expence, and that the plan would ultimately be found a plan of the greatest public œconomy, as well as of humanity. A building that would admit of twenty beds for each sex, it was supposed, would be sufficient at present; and it might be formed on a plan that would admit of easy additions, if additions should be found necessary.

This proposal was unanimously agreed to, and a committee formed to report a proper plan and situation to a special vestry on the 29th of this month.

Though the committee have not made their report, there is no doubt that the building if erected, will be situated on the open space in the neighbourhood of the work-house, a situation that possesses every advantage, and obviates every objection, real and imaginary.

J. C.



P. S. The number of cases admitted into the fever-wards of the work-house, has not been obtained. The admission in the quarter beginning the first of March, and ending the first of June 1795, was 76.

The practice there, as at the infirmary, has been attended with extraordinary success.

Liverpool, May 5, 1796.

Ordered, that the above letter be published in Mr. Harrop's news-paper, and 500 hand-bills of the same printed for immediate distribution.

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Bridgewater-Arms, 27th May, 1796.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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At the first annual Meeting of the Trustees of the Board of Health, held this day, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed, and ordered to be printed in the Manchester news-papers.

### *Resolved,*

I. That this Board fully approve of the proceedings of their committee, relative to the house of recovery, and of their having opened it, without farther delay, for the reception of the sick. They are well satisfied with its situation, conveniences, and salubrity; yet they renew their former assur-

ance of being willing to relinquish it, whenever another, more eligible, shall be provided, and made ready for the immediate accommodation of fever-patients, that no interruption may take place in the progress of a charity, so necessary to the well-being of the town and neighbourhood.

II. That the report of the proceedings of the Board of Health, addressed to the public, which was read at this meeting, and unanimously approved of, be immediately printed, and generally distributed.

III. That the following letters, and report addressed to the chairman, and read at this meeting be also inserted in the Manchester news-papers.

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## THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH,

At the first Annual Meeting.

ADDRESSED TO THE PUBLIC.

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TO meliorate the condition of the poor; to prevent the generation of diseases; to obviate the propagation of them by contagion; and to mitigate those which exist, by providing comforts and accommodations for the sick; are the professed objects of this institution. The accomplishment of an undertaking so important and so extensive, must, from its nature, be progressive: and the Board of Health have deemed it incumbent on

them, to direct their earliest exertions to the alleviation of the evils, which are most urgent and severe. Under this view, the low fever, so universally and fatally prevalent in the town and neighbourhood of Manchester, has claimed their peculiar and sedulous attention; and they have concerted, without delay, appropriate means for repressing its present violence and further spread. Of these, the establishment of a house of recovery, formed an essential part: that patients might be removed to it, who, from extreme penury, are incapable of receiving proper aids in their own close and noisome dwellings, or who are liable to communicate contagion to a numerous family; and, if in a crowded neighbourhood, even to perpetuate its virulence.

By incorporating this establishment with the dispensary, it was evident that a complete arrangement would be accomplished, at once efficient, economical, and permanent; affording wine, medicines, and the best professional assistance to the poor, without the danger of alienating subscriptions from the hospital, and with the least possible expence to the public. For however great the fund of charity may be, in this liberal and opulent town, it must have certain bounds; and beneficence may be wearied, as well as exhausted, by accumulated calls.

A calculation was therefore made by the medical committee of the infirmary, who, from their

long experience among the home-patients, are competent judges on this point, that an asylum of moderate dimensions, capable of containing twenty-five beds, would be adequate to all the purposes of the charity, in those seasons when the typhus is epidemical; and that at other times not more than fifteen beds would be occupied. The accuracy of this estimate has been since confirmed, by an account of the general fever-wards at Liverpool; where seventy-six patients were admitted from the first day of March, to the first day of June, 1795; a number, probably, comprehending four successions, on the allowance of three weeks for the abode of each patient, and consequently requiring only eighteen beds. On these grounds of prudence and humanity, the committee of the Board of Health were instructed to lose no time in providing fever-wards: and after diligent enquiry, and an impartial comparison of different sites and accommodations, they unanimously fixed their choice on four detached houses in Portland-street, then fortunately untenanted, the property of the trustees of the infirmary, and forming a part of the premises, which the Lord of the Manor long since transferred for the exclusive use of the sick poor. The area, on which they are erected, comprehends more than 38,000 square yards, according to Mr. Green's plan, without any other inhabited buildings, except those appertaining to the hospital;

and consequently is well ventilated, and apparently free from all danger of communicating infection.

But to remove every reasonable apprehension, the physicians and surgeons of the hospital were requested to deliberate, and to report their collective opinions, on the situation and accommodations of the proposed fever-wards. Their testimony (see Report of the Medical Committee, page 80) was so ample and satisfactory, that the committee confiding in the good sense and candour of their fellow-citizens, assured themselves groundless prejudices would be no longer entertained against the plan which they had framed, nor obstacles opposed to its speedy and complete accomplishment. In projecting it, they had solicitously regarded the common interests and feelings both of the poor and of the rich; and in its execution, they were aided by such medical and legal advice, as authorized them to conclude, that no injury to health, or infringement of the laws of property, could be involved in their undertaking. Similar institutions have been carried on, with public approbation and with exemplary safety and success, at Chester, and at Liverpool: and the report of the first is inserted (see page 7) and of the second (see page 131) together with the regulations which have been drawn up for the government of our own establishment, (see page 113) in order to evince clearly and practically, that the evils which have been alledged,



are only hypothetical, whilst the benefits to be expected are substantial and permanent.

Information has been communicated to the Board, that a process at law is likely to be instituted against the house of recovery, on the ground of its being a nuisance. We conceive that such a plea is wholly inadmissible. And we have the authority of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, for asserting, that in cases, where no private emolument is in view, and where the public good is the sole and exclusive object, even well-grounded fears do not constitute a nuisance\*. But the Board

\* High Court of Chancery, before Lord Chancellor Hardwicke Dec. 18, 1752.

A motion was made for an injunction to stay the building of a house to inoculate for the small-pox in Cold Bath Fields.

For the motion the following cases were cited, 2 Roll. Abr. 139, 140. Hawk. Pl. Cro. book 1. p. 199, ca. 75, sect. 11. 1 Lut. 169.

The application is to be considered in two lights; First, whether the thing complained of be a nuisance? Secondly, if a nuisance, whether of a public or a private nature? Now it is not settled, that a house for the reception of inoculated patients is a nuisance. Upon an indictment of that kind, there hath been lately an acquittal at Rye, in Sussex. The notion of a private nuisance is, where it affects only particular persons, as in stopping up ancient lights, &c. It then becomes a public nuisance, when it affects many persons, though it may likewise, at the same time, be of a private nature too, as in the case of a hole in the King's highway, &c. The present nuisance, if any, is a public one; for it is not confined to the particular property of the plaintiffs, because it is in the nature of terror to diffuse itself in a very extensive manner.

have to urge this farther argument, that they are availing themselves only of the long-established rights of the infirmary, and are applying to the use of the sick poor those premises, which were originally purchased for such purposes of charity.

To procure legal protection, therefore, for the House of recovery, is to defend the cause of the hospital itself, and that of every other hospital in the kingdom. For, to abridge the necessary extension of their plans of humanity, is to despoil them of an invaluable privilege, and to obstruct the progress of the most important improvements.

From these weighty considerations, it may be deemed advisable to enter into a subscription, to repel the threatened action at law; and this subscription may be separate and distinct from those funds, which are appropriated to the maintenance of the general undertaking.

Though the Board have to regret, that the establishment of the fever-wards has necessarily engaged so large a share of their attention, yet they have not neglected the other momentous objects of

But bills to restrain nuisances, must extend to such only as are nuisances at law. And the fears of mankind, though they may be reasonable ones, will not create a nuisance. Had it been a nuisance, the proper method of proceeding would have been by information, in the name of the Attorney General. Upon the circumstances of this case, I am of opinion, I should not be justified in granting the injunction which is now prayed, and therefore must deny the motion. *Atkyn's Reports*, vol. 3, case 288.

their institution. This will be manifested by the regulations which they have proposed, and which they trust will speedily be carried into effect, for promoting the cleanliness, ventilation, and salubrity of the habitations of the poor, (see page 108). The state of the cotton-mills, also, has, in a peculiar degree, interested their feelings, and excited their exertions; and they have heart-felt satisfaction in being able to announce, that a generous spirit of improvement has been called forth amongst the proprietors of these factories, not only in the town and neighbourhood of Manchester, but in different parts of the country. Of this they have received the most pleasing testimonials, from different correspondents. Yet, they have still to lament the untimely and protracted labour of the children employed in some of them; which tends to diminish future expectations, as to the general sum of life and industry, by impairing the strength, and destroying the vital stamina of the rising generation; at the same time that, in too many instances, it gives encouragement to idleness, extravagance, and profligacy in the parents, who, perverting the order of nature, subsist by the oppression of their offspring. On this occasion, also, they hold it their indispensable duty, to suggest the propriety of framing, by common consent, a general system of laws for the wise, humane, and equal government of these large and increasing communities; and that this liberal system shall comprehend the

means of education, and of moral and religious instruction, in that spring of life, which is the natural and fruitful seed-time of knowledge and of virtue. (See Mr. Dale's letter to Mr. Bayley, page 54.) Such is the statement, which the Board of Health, at this their first annual meeting, think it expedient to make of their future plans and past transactions. Conscious of the purity and rectitude, no less than of the importance of their views, they appeal with confidence to an enlightened public for that protection and patronage, which are essential to their success. On this united support and animating approbation they rely for the discouragement of that opposition, which confessedly originates in the apprehension of injury to private interest; and which seems to us to be governed by obsolete prejudices, and by opinions that science now disclaims, and which recent experience has fully disproved: an opposition, which is deeply alarmed at imaginary local evils, whilst it appears to be comparatively indifferent to those that are real and extensive; since, by seeking to substitute plans, remote and uncertain in their execution, for one already carried into beneficial effect, it may protract the ravages of fever, indefinitely, for months and years to come.

*Copy of Dr. Bardsley's Letter.*

SIR,

I BEG leave to lay before you, for the information of the Board of Health, the following account of the circumstances attending the three first patients I have admitted into the house of recovery. This statement will tend to prove, (if any farther proof were wanting) not only the utility of the scheme of a house of recovery, but also the necessity of its being carried into immediate effect.

Mary Parkinson, aged twenty, the second daughter of Ann Parkinson, lodging with her mother and sister at James Rushton's, (who rents a garret, No. 50, Great Turner-street) was seized on the 17th instant with a spotted fever, and visited in a day or two after, as a home-patient of the infirmary. She was found, almost destitute of covering, lying upon a collection of rags spread upon the floor of a close, dirty, and noisome garret. In this wretched substitute for a bed, the mother and another grown up daughter (just recovering of fever) likewise slept. In an opposite corner of the room, James Rushton, his wife, and three children, slept upon a bed similar to that above described.

Under such circumstances, I was fully convinced, that it would be impracticable to prevent the fever from spreading, unless the infected person could



be removed. But, as the house of recovery was not then opened, the removal of the patient could not be effected. In a day or two, as I expected, the daughter of James Rushton sickened, and became dangerously ill of the fever. As the wife, (who was far advanced in her pregnancy) and the rest of the inhabitants of the room, might be supposed to be in hourly danger of infection, I proposed, therefore, (the house of recovery being now ready) as the most likely method of saving the lives of the two women so dangerously affected, and of preventing the rest from receiving the infection, that the sick persons should be instantly removed into the house of recovery. With every expression of joy and gratitude, the parents of both the patients accepted the offer, and they were accordingly removed, without suffering any injury, or apparent inconvenience, by the removal.

The house in Turner-street, No. 50, contained 220 inhabitants. When we consider the malignant nature of the fever, the want of accommodation for the sick, and the frequent and careless intercourse of the inhabitants among each other, may we not reasonably suppose, that the majority of the inhabitants of this dwelling would soon have become infected, had not the removal of the sick taken place? This supposition is farther strengthened by considering the deplorable condition of the patients, when examined upon their admission

into the house of recovery, in order that they be purified by washing, putting on clean linen, &c.

Mary West, the wife of a soldier belonging to the Mank's Fencibles, was infected with fever from attending her husband, who had recovered, and was ordered to join the regiment. She had been driven out of doors upon the symptoms of fever appearing, and was refused admittance wherever she applied. In consequence of exposure to cold, and distress of mind, her complaint rapidly increased, and she got a recommendation, as in-patient to the infirmary. But the rules of this charity forbade her admittance. She was, therefore, received into the house of recovery as an object peculiarly claimed by the nature of the institution.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

your obedient humble servant,

S. A. BARDSLEY.

Chatham-street, May 27, 1796.

*To the Chairman of the Board of Health.*

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*Copy of Dr. Holme's Letter.*

SIR,

IN compliance with your request, I have the honour to inclose a report of the first patients admitted under my care, into the house of reco-

every. Jeremiah Bowcock was removed, on the first appearance of fever, from a family living at No. 77, Newton-lane; and, besides himself, consisting of seven men, four women, and three children. On the same floor with, and adjoining to the chamber in which he and three others slept, a man, his wife, and three children constantly reside. The ground floor is occupied by two men, one woman, and three children; and the cellars are let for work-rooms. The disease was introduced into this house by Bowcock's brother, who had been returned into the streets, when labouring under typhus, by the persons with whom he lodged. Immediately after the removal of this patient, the room in which he had been confined was duly washed and ventilated; and means were taken to disinfect the clothes and bedding, by a free exposure of them in the open air.

Margaret Billington, wife of a private in the York Fencibles, was removed on the tenth day of her disease, from a small room, at No. 8, Pump-street, which has been for some time occupied during the night by four grown persons and three children. On her removal, the bedding was exposed to the air, in an open space, for several hours; the floor of the apartment was scoured; the walls were white-washed; fumigations with nitrous gas were employed, according to the practice of his Majesty's Naval Hospitals;

and a reward was promised to the heads of the family, provided their endeavours to extinguish contagion were attended with success.

I am, Sir, with much respect,  
your obedient servant,  
F. HOLME.

Brazen-Nose-street. May 27, 1796

*To the President of the Board of Health.*

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*Report of the first Patients admitted into the  
House of Recovery, by Dr. Ferriar.*

May 27th, 1796.

John Owen, Robert Williams, and William Williams, from a house in Salford, where six persons lay ill of fever at the same time, in two very small rooms. One patient only remains in that house, who is now recovering

William Lomax, a child from a house in Longworth-street, where a family of five persons had only one bed-room for their accommodation.

The eldest daughter was first taken ill; after she recovered, the father, mother, and this boy, were all seized with the fever together. The father died. The mother miscarried, from grief and fatigue, the day after his death. A younger daughter has since been taken ill, and will be admitted as soon as possible.

Samuel Gould, from a large family with whom he lodged. His fever is of a very dangerous nature, and it is hoped that by his removal the infection of the whole family will be prevented.

J. FERRIAR.

Adjourned to Thursday next at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

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EXTRACTS OF LETTERS,

RELATIVE TO THE FEVER AMONG THE DESERTERS  
IN THE CASTLE OF CHESTER.



No. I.

*Doctors Haygarth, Currie, and Houghton to  
Mr. Dundas.*

Chester, 14th Dec. 1793.

SIR,

BEING desired by our respectable magistrates and fellow-citizens to report the mischief which has happened, and may be apprehended, from the past and present mode of confining deserters in the Castle of Chester, and to report our opinion how it may be prevented, we very cheerfully comply with their request.

The dungeon, in which the deserters have been chiefly confined, is sunk several feet below the



level of the ground, which renders it very damp. Its dimensions are six yards square, and eight feet high. The only aperture into it is by a window of 1 foot broad, and 3 feet high; except a chimney, and a door, which during the night is constantly shut. Even the small window here described, was, till a few weeks ago, closed with glass, except a few broken panes, and even these were frequently stopped with straw during the night. In this situation there was no possibility of observing the most necessary rules of cleanliness. Another prison, over the former, has occasionally received some convalescents, and within a few weeks past some patients. But this room is unsafe. The deserters make their escape out of it. The horrid dungeon above described has been for many years, the general receptacle of all the deserters, who pass to and from Ireland.

It has contained 30 at a time, the healthy, the diseased, and the dead. Jail fevers, as might be expected, have, for a long series of years, frequently attacked the deserters confined in this dreadful mansion. Their medical and other attendants have, we know, been frequently infected by this fever. In 1772 their apothecary died of it. In January last, out of 18 deserters crowded into this prison, 17 had the fever. Within this month, out of 15 deserters, 13 had fevers, and 3 died. A fresh party of 18 is since arrived, of whom two have fevers.

A few days ago, the number of prisoners amounted to 28. A wife of one of the deserters, big with child, and very ill of the fever, was received into the Chester Infirmary, where she was brought to bed and died. Pestilence, thus propagated, not only brings misery and death to these unhappy beings, but greatly endangers the lives of his Majesty's Garrison, and of the inhabitants of the closely-adjoining city. The mischievous consequences of such contagions are much greater and more extensive than is generally apprehended. From facts, which have fallen under our own observation, we are convinced, that the contagion of fevers sometimes remains in the human body, for 2, 3, or more weeks, in a latent state. Infection received in this dungeon, may be conveyed by deserters into regiments, and ships in distant parts of Great-Britain and Ireland. The poison, thus propagated from jail to jail, has probably, in numerous instances, communicated destructive fevers to our fleets and armies. All this mischief may be effectually prevented at a very moderate expence.

The deserters ought to have a prison of sufficient dimensions, which can be kept clean, and that can freely admit fresh air.

And a second prison, to separate the diseased from the healthy, is indispensably necessary.

The infection of fevers is seldom or never caught in a clean and airy apartment, as we have learned

by extensive observation, and experience. By an airy closet to each prison, they may be kept clean. Contagion may long remain in the dirty clothes of these deserters. Warm and cheap *temporary* dresses should be provided, to be worn during the purification of their own clothes by washing, heating, and airing. A sufficient supply of blankets would be of the greatest advantage for preserving the prisoners from contagious dirt.

In this report we have studiously endeavoured to exclude every unnecessary, but to include every necessary regulation. It is hoped that you, Sir, will recommend a measure to be speedily executed, which, during a war, is most urgently required. Such a prison at Chester would become a place of purification from the poison of infectious fevers, between England and Ireland, and would eminently contribute to preserve health among his Majesty's forces in both kingdoms.

We have the honour to be,

with great respect,

your obedient and faithful servants,

JOHN HAYGARTH,

WILLIAM CURRIE,

WILLIAM HOUGHTON.

*To the Right Hon. Henry Dundas.*

No. II.

*Mr. Dundas's Answer.*

Whitehall, 20th Dec. 1793.

GENTLEMEN,

I WAS yesterday favoured with your letter of the 14th instant, stating the unfitness of the apartment, which has been appropriated to the confinement of deserters in the Castle of Chester, who are constantly passing and repassing through that city, on their way to and from Ireland, and the alarming effects which have been felt in consequence. I shall lose no time in communicating to the proper department your report upon this subject: and I shall take such steps as will, I hope, be a means of preventing those consequences, which have so very justly raised your apprehensions.

I cannot omit returning my particular thanks for the trouble you have taken on this occasion, and to assure you that I am,

Gentlemen,

your most obedient

and most humble servant,

HENRY DUNDAS.

*To Doctors Haygarth, Currie, and Houghton,  
Physicians, Chester.*

## No. III.

*Second Letter to Mr. Dundas.*

Chester, 26th Feb. 1795.

SIR,

WE ought first to acknowledge the honour of your answer to the letter we addressed to you on the 14th of Dec. 1793, by desire of our respectable civil magistrates, concerning the contagious fever among the deserters confined in Chester Castle. The promptitude with which our proposals of erecting a new prison was accepted and executed, deserves our particular thanks. Since this improvement, the number of patients in the jail fever, compared with the number of deserters, has considerably diminished. However the danger is not removed, but still remains of considerable magnitude and importance.

From the surgeon's report, it appears that on the 24th of Nov. 1794, the hospital contained 12; on the 19th of Jan. last 13; and on the 2d of Feb. 14 fever-patients. And some deserters, who departed from Chester in good health, have been attacked by the fever on their march, in consequence of a latent infection.

Deserters from the army, more than most other men, are peculiarly exposed to contagious disorders. They are confined in close, crowded prisons, along with patients in all stages of putrid fevers. Their



Clothes thus become contaminated with a large quantity of contagious dirt, brought from these prisons.

They have no opportunity either to change or purify their clothes. A close crowded room is peculiarly liable to propagate contagion.

The new prison was built to contain 30 deserters, according to the report which we had received, that this was the greatest number who had been confined here at one time.

But during all the last year, not fewer than from 70 to 90, and once 103 deserters have remained together at Chester. And from the number of English regiments marching to Ireland, and of Irish regiments passing to England, it is reasonable to expect, that the quantity of deserters in this prison will continue to increase.

Many other obvious causes of this fever might be explained. But it may be sufficient, on the present occasion, briefly to state that the annexed *Rules of Prevention* (No. 4.) appear to be well adapted to remove the chief causes of this calamity, if strictly executed. Mr. Okell, the present Surgeon, is extremely well qualified for the office he holds, both from his medical knowledge, and attention to his very dangerous duties. But the regulations, which were recommended in regard to cleanliness, &c. in our former letter generally,

and in this more particularly, have not been accomplished, nor, we think, can be accomplished, without the aid now solicited.

The assistance at present requested from government, to obtain due observation of the Rules, may be shortly comprised in the following detail.

1. An increase of pay to an invalid soldier, as overseer of the business.
2. An oven.
3. A fire place in the closet, and each of the healthy prisons: the former is required for cleanliness and various means of purification; the latter for the sake of dryness and circulation of air.
4. A sufficient supply of temporary dresses, and blankets for the hospital.
5. A regular supply of clean straw, and various small articles of little expence.
6. And we particularly request, that the deserters may be moved forward as speedily as possible.

These observations you will please to submit to the consideration of the proper departments.

As far as belongs to ourselves, and we can with propriety interfere in the business, you may depend on our best advice and assistance, in order to preserve from contagious fevers, not only these miserable wretches, but also his Majesty's garrison, and the various regiments to which these deserters belong. These objects, compared with the very small aid now solicited, are of such great import-

ance, that we trust they will claim immediate attention, and that the occasion will sufficiently apologize for the liberty taken, in this address, by,

Sir,

your very respectful,

and obedient servants, &c.

*Right Honourable Henry Dundas.*

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No. IV.

*Rules of Prevention, to be observed by the Deserters in Chester Castle.*

I. The deserters, immediately on their arrival, shall be entirely stripped; their skins completely washed, hair combed, and be supplied with temporary dresses. They are not to be allowed to join the other deserters; till they have been thus rendered perfectly clean; but are to remain in a separate prison, till this business has been performed, and till examined by the Surgeon.

II. The clothes, in which the deserters arrive, are to be purified, by washing their linen, and restoring their woollen garments in an oven. This purification should be performed as expeditiously as possible, that the temporary dresses may again be exchanged for their own.

III. The floors of every prison are to be swept every day, and washed twice a-week. The dirty

straw is to be removed once a week, thrown over the Castle-wall, and immediately burned, when a bundle of fresh clean straw is to be supplied to each healthy prisoner, and two bundles to each patient in the hospital.

IV. Each deserter is required to wash his hands and face, and comb his hair every day, and be supplied with a clean shirt once a-week. Every shirt, cloth, &c. of a fever patient is to be immediately immersed in cold water, till it be washed out of it in the adjoining closet. The temporary dresses are to be worn for a few days by convalescents from fever; and, on their return into the healthy prison, changed for their own. These dresses, when much contaminated, must be stoved in the oven.

V. Both the healthy and sick prisons are to be constantly supplied with a current of fresh air, more or less according to the numbers they contain, the weather, &c.

VI. The walls of the hospital are to be white-washed with hot lime every month, and of the other prisons, every third month, or oftener, if needful. On this occasion, explosions of gun-powder would be requisite, when much contagion prevails.

VII. The healthy prisoners are to be taken into the open air, for several hours, every fine day; during which the windows and doors should be kept open.

VIII. In order that these rules may be strictly observed, an invalid soldier of the garrison, who can write, ought to be appointed with some increase of pay, as overseer of this business.

He should require the deserters exactly to obey these Rules, to perform what is necessary for their own cleanliness and preservation, and keep a *register* in what manner the rules have been observed, according to a plan here annexed. (No. 5.) To secure his attention and obedience, he ought to be removeable on complaint from the Surgeon that he had neglected his duty.

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No. V.

*A Register, to shew how the Rules, to prevent Fevers among the Deserters in Chester Castle, are observed.*

|                                     | January | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of deserters - - - - -       |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| — fever-patients - - - - -          |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| — rooms swept - - - - -             |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| — washed - - - - -                  |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| — dresses, stoved in the oven - -   |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| — in the closet - - - - -           |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| — deserters in the open air - - -   |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| — bundles of clean straw introduced |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| Old straw, when burnt - - - - -     |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| Number of windows open by day - -   |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| — by night - - - - -                |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| — shirts washed - - - - -           |         |   |   |   |   |   |



No. VI.

*Mr. Windham's Letter to the Magistrates of  
Chester.*

War-Office, 30th March, 1795.

GENTLEMEN,

Mr. Secretary Dundas having communicated to me your late application concerning the Prison for deserters at Chester, with the enclosures containing the opinion and suggestions of several eminent gentlemen of the faculty on the subject ; I am to acquaint you, that I entirely concur with them as to the measures proposed, and shall be ready to give every assistance in my power for carrying them into execution. In order that the previous measures may be taken in the most satisfactory manner, and with as little delay as possible, I could wish, that the fire-places required in the closets, the ovens for stoving woollen clothing, the temporary dresses, and the blankets for the hospital might be provided under your orders, and those of the gentlemen of the faculty, who have interested themselves in forming the regulations; and as soon as I shall be informed of the expence incurred, I will take care that it shall be defrayed. In the mean time I shall give directions to the commanding officer to select from the invalids of the garrison, a sober, steady, intelligent, and attentive man, capable of overseeing and directing

the business intended to be committed to him, and who shall be responsible for the strict observance of the rules, an exact copy of which shall be transmitted, with orders for making the supplies of straw, and other small articles alluded to, but not specified in the fifth requisition, agreeably to what may be decided upon by the physicians. You may also be assured, that every care will be taken to remove the deserters forward as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

W. WINDHAM:

*To the Magistrates of the County of Chester.*

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No. VII.

*Dr. Haygarth to Sir G. Prescott, Bart.*

May 4th, 1795.

DEAR SIR,

MY fellow-citizens, as well as myself, must acknowledge very great obligations to you for your very friendly and humane attention to preserve the deserters in the Castle, and consequently the inhabitants of Chester, from the jail-fever. And to Mr. Secretary Windham we owe our very grateful thanks for the candid and explicit manner, in which he has granted our requests. With respect to ourselves, the business is, I trust, in a train of

beneficial accomplishment, if too great numbers, in proportion to the size of our own prison, be not allowed to remain stationary at Chester. But if our own regulations were to be completely perfect, yet we could not reasonably hope to preserve Chester free from the danger of the pestilential contagion, unless like measures were taken both in London and Dublin, to prevent the generation and communication of this destructive distemper, among the deserters on each side of us.

From much attention to this subject, for many years past, and a comparative view of numerous facts, I am fully convinced that the poison of infectious fevers will remain in a latent state in the human body, in some cases, for some weeks, before the commencement of the disease. This being the truth, our danger, with our best endeavours, would much resemble yours; if you had the benefit of a good fire engine to preserve your own house from the flames, while the houses of your neighbours on each side, in Portman-square, were on fire, and permitted to burn without interruption.

Our “ Rules of Prevention ” are founded upon the simple principles comprised in three words: *cleanliness*, *fresh air*, and *separation* of the distempered from the healthy. All of them are indispensable, yet all have hitherto been constantly transgressed. Deserters have remained at Chester, for four months together, in the same dirty shirt. And we have reason to suspect, that both in Lon-

London and Dublin, there has been the same inattention to preserve the deserters from the jail-fever, as in Chester. When they arrive here, from either of those cities, their filthy clothes and feverish disposition fully evince the truth of this conclusion.

On these considerations, I am induced earnestly to request that you would exert all your influence to obtain proper regulations among the deserters, both in London and Dublin.

Our rules may be pursued, as far as they are thought to be reasonable; and all improvements upon them we shall very thankfully adopt.

Our own safety is so intimately connected with this arrangement, that if measures be not taken to prevent the propagation of the jail-fever, among the deserters coming to Chester, another remonstrance from the Magistrates and physicians, shewing the mischievous consequences of such neglect, will become our indispensable duty.

But I have so high an opinion of the excellent understanding, the public spirit, and the genuine patriotism of Mr. Secretary Windham, that I have the most sanguine hopes of the establishment of proper regulations. On the principle of self-preservation, we have a natural right to petition that the deserters, sent to Chester, may be preserved, as far as practicable, from pestilential contagion:—And as an Englishman, zealously anxious



For the prosperity of my country, I may, perhaps, be permitted, without presumption, to observe that every military hospital ought, with the strictest regularity, to adopt rules to prevent the propagation of infectious distempers. I have not a doubt that the late extraordinary pestilence in the West Indies might have been prevented by practicable regulations. Measures to preserve our Army and Navy from infectious fevers, dysenteries, &c. would so essentially promote our national strength and prosperity, that we ought not to be dismayed by conquerable difficulties.

Great advantages would be derived from even an imperfect execution of such a plan.

As this is a confidential letter to a friend, I have taken the liberty to speak with great freedom. To your judgment I can implicitly trust, whether and to whom it ought to be communicated. Does the secretary at war, or the physician general of the army, regulate these affairs? Sir Lucas Pepys has long honoured me with his friendship. Might it be proper to submit this letter to his consideration; or to address another to him upon these highly important concerns?



No. VIII.

*Mr. Windham's Letter to Sir G. Prescott.*

War-Office, 15th May, 1795.

SIR,

I AM to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, with an enclosure from Dr. Haygarth, which I return herewith; and have to acquaint you in answer, that the necessary directions are given for establishing as soon as possible the plan of regulation at the Savoy; and that I have recommended the same to the lord lieutenant of Ireland, for his excellency's adoption in Dublin.

I have the honour to be, &c.

W. WINDHAM.

*Sir G. Prescott, Bart. 31, Portman Square.*

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No. IX.

*Mr. Okell's Letter to Dr. Haygarth.*

Chester, June 25, 1796.

DEAR SIR,

I AM happy to inform you, that the rules for the prevention of fevers in Chester Provost have been attended with the most salutary effects. All the regulations have been attended to, with a

considerable degree of exactness, except the rule which orders every prisoner to have one clean shirt every week. This we have not always been able to accomplish, from the prisoners frequently not having a change of linen with them.

The regulations commenced upon the 13th of April, 1795. At that period there were 123 deserters: 14 of them had fevers. The fever continued in the hospital, more or less, till the 10th of August, 1795, except 9 days in the middle of July. Since the 10th of last August, we have been perfectly free from fever.

The greatest number of prisoners that have been in the Provost at one time since August, was 49. If you will take the trouble to look over the register which I have sent, you will be better enabled to judge, how far the regulations have been attended to.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. OKELL.

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Bridgewater Arms, 30th May, 1796.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT a Meeting of the Committee of the Board of Health, held this day, the following Protest was read, and ordered to be printed.

WE, whose names are hereunto subscribed, think it our duty to state to the public, our objections to the Town's meeting, advertized for Monday next, on the following grounds.

I. The question at issue, relative to the establishment of fever-wards, involves in it many points of professional learning and experience; and, therefore, a Town's meeting, which is usually very tumultuous, cannot be a proper tribunal to decide on what requires deliberate investigation, and scientific enquiry.

II. The queries which have been proposed for public discussion, have, it is presumed, a reference only to the private interest of a few individuals, who are solicitous to obtain the sanction of the town, that it may operate in their favour, if the cause shall come to be tried in a court of justice.

III. The Board of Health have, in a resolution which passed unanimously at their late Annual Meeting, expressed their willingness to "relinquish the present situation of the House of Recovery, whenever another, more eligible, shall be provided, and made ready for the immediate accommodation of fever-patients; that no interruption may take place in the progress of a charity so necessary to the well-being of the town;" And we observe with concern and surprize, that no proposition is held forth in the requisition to the Boroughreeve and Constables, for the establishment of fever-wards in any other situation.

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*Copy of a Letter from a Medical Student at  
Edinburgh.*

THE collection of papers with which you have favoured me, respecting the House of Recovery, was extremely acceptable: for in a question of such importance, and which has not merely a local interest, I have been solicitous to see a full statement of the arguments on each side. In the warmth of controversy, however, the great object of decision seems often to have been lost sight of; and much extraneous matter has been introduced, that affects not, in the smallest degree, the point in discussion. The establishment of fever-wards has been opposed as if it were to give birth to a new evil, whilst it is obvious that we have only to enquire, whether the baneful effects of a contagion that already exists, will be augmented or lessened by the measures of the Board of Health: and our conclusion must be founded on a fair comparison of the present state of the diseased poor, as favourable, or otherwise, to the diffusion of febrile infection, with that which will be produced by their collection into an hospital.

Contagious disorders, we all know, may be communicated either immediately by the effluvia surrounding the sick; or by *fomites*\*. Now will

\* Fomites consist of the contagious matter from the bodies of the sick, accumulated and combined with the foul apparel, furniture, walls, &c.



either of these sources of disease be rendered more destructive than at present, by the establishment of fever-wards ?

To the active virulence of the first, circumstances could scarcely be more favourable than before the institution of the House of Recovery. Confinement of the exhalations from the sick, the great origin of all contagion, was an evil, which in many of their dwellings that I have seen, could not be remedied; and the foulness of the surrounding atmosphere gave additional malignity to their diseases, and strongly promoted the copious generation of this subtile poison.

It may be apprehended, however, that the collection of a number of fever-patients, within the narrow limits of an hospital, will give rise to an accumulation of contagious matter, and form a centre, from which it will be diffused amongst all who live in the immediate vicinity. But bad management alone can render your establishment such a nuisance; for, by proper ventilation, the effluvia from the sick may be removed before : by confinement, they augment so much in quantity, or acquire such virulence, as to endanger the safety of the neighbourhood. That the sick do not suffer an aggravation of their maladies from being gathered together into a public receptacle, we have the testimony of Dr. Fordyce, who says expressly, that “ in general more patients recover of fevers “ in the London hospitals, than in private families,



“ with similar practice.” (See Transactions of a Society, &c. p. 12.)

And the experience of the past winter in the clinical ward here clearly shews, that the wards of an hospital may be rendered harmless to all who enter them; for I am unable to recollect half a dozen who have caught the fever during their six months attendance on the infirmary; and Dr. Duncan’s memory does not furnish him with so large a number, notwithstanding his extensive and almost universal knowledge of the students. He assures me, also, that more pupils receive infection by acting as nurses to their sick friends, than directly from the patients in the hospital. Of those infected, in the latter way, many are known to have suffered by imprudently hanging over the diseased, rather than from any necessary exposure.

A better instance could hardly be adduced of the limited influence of contagion, than is presented by the Royal Infirmary of this place. Most of your medical men must remember, that it stands in a fully inhabited part of the city, and that it is an asylum for those labouring under fever as well as under other diseases. Between the windows of the clinical ward, appropriated to the women, as well as a fever-ward, and those of a neighbouring house, I am sure that thirty feet do not intervene; and a current of air must frequently be carried, when the wind is west, immediately through these wards, which have windows almost constantly

open on each side, to this and other houses: yet no example, Dr. Duncan informs me, has been known, within his recollection, which extends many years back, of infection being conveyed to these houses; and he is certain, that in the family of Mr. Alexander Wood, who inhabits one of them, there has not been a fever of many years. He is equally ignorant of any harm having befallen passengers in the street, or the chairmen who convey patients labouring under all the stages of fever, in sedans belonging to the hospital, and lined in the usual manner, though the men employed are not confined to this business, but are called, as for other purposes, off the common stands. It would, doubtless, be prudent, however, to avoid in the construction of your chairs, all such materials as are known longest to retain the matter of contagion.

But there is another advantage, which will be possessed in your establishment, that cannot be enjoyed in the houses of the poor, viz. the use of the best means that are at present known for destroying the matter of contagion as it arises from its source, and of thus completely preventing all danger to the neighbourhood. Dr. Smyth's expectations, from the nitric acid vapour, seem to rest on so copious an induction of facts, that I almost hope our researches for a specific against febrile infection, are now brought to an end. This, or any other antidote, can never be employed with

sufficiency in the dwellings of the poor, whose indolence or prejudices are always in the way of proper precautions. Supposing, however, that the exhalations from the diseased are allowed in the House of Recovery, to retain their usual malignity, will more danger arise to the inhabitants of Manchester than subsists now that the sufferers under fever are dispersed through every street of the town? What new source of contagion is to be opened by your hospitable asylum? If danger is apprehended by those in its immediate neighbourhood, does not the same danger already threaten, to an incomparably greater extent, the thousands who, in a time of general disease, are but a few yards distant from the noisome habitations of the sick poor? If the discharges of the sick cannot be conveyed from the House of Recovery without "opening an inlet for contagion to every house and every street," what must be the consequences of the extreme carelessness with which this business is at present performed, in every part of the town?

Your establishment will tend also to check the fatal progress of fever, by preventing its diffusion in the form of *fomites*, which are universally allowed to act with greater virulence even than the direct discharges from the sick. (See Campbell on typhus, and Lind p. 220.) It has been to *fomites* that all the calamities in courts of justice have been owing, that are recorded by Mead and other

writers; and to *fomites* brought from the depths and impurities of the dungeon, where a degree of malignity has been attained by the contagious matter which can never happen in a well ordered hospital. The communication of infection too will be, in a great measure, prevented. At present almost every house, containing fever-patients, sends out daily one or more of its members, with clothes drenched with contagion, to the cotton-mill, or some other public workhouse; and the consequences are well known to the proprietors of these works. The various articles also, that are manufactured in the houses of the poor, often in the very midst of the poisonous exhalations from diseased, cannot fail to spread the mischief widely.

The objection to your institution, drawn from the partial nature of its benefits, is sufficiently answered by the facts, stated in the reports, by Doctors Ferriar, Bardsley, and Holme. The situation of the hospital is hardly a matter of so much indifference, as that its establishment in the town should be *hastily* relinquished. The evil of conveying patients from their own dwellings, will be *exactly in proportion to their distances from town*: by its erection in the country the labours of the medical and other attendants will be so much increased, that a fatal relaxation of discipline will probably be the consequence; and a spot cannot perhaps be found, within a reasonable distance,



which, though at present vacant, may not in a few years be covered with houses.

P. S. In my road to the post office, I have made an exact admeasurement of the distance between the gable end of Mr. Wood's house, which has several windows at this end, and the walls of that part of the Infirmary, in which the clinical wards are situated, and find it to be only  $27\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Every westerly wind that blows must pass through the clinical and another fever-ward, and be carried immediately into the apartments of Mr. Wood's house.

Edinburgh, June 13, 1796.

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Manchester, 1st Sept. 1796:

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT a general Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following Resolution was unanimously passed:

That a domestic servant, falling sick of fever, may, on particular occasions, be removed into the House of Recovery, to prevent the spread of infection, on payment of a sum not less than one guinea, nor exceeding one guinea and a half, weekly, according to circumstances: That the admission shall be under such regulations as are



consistent with the laws of the infirmary, due compensation being made to that charity, out of such weekly payment, for the wine and medicines consumed by the patient: But that no servant shall be admitted to the exclusion of any poor person, nor at any time when there is not a sufficient number of spare beds in the house to answer the ordinary claims of the sick.

That the vacant land adjoining the house of recovery be enclosed with a wall, and a shed erected for the reception of the dead, with large gates to the front.

Adjourned to the first Thursday in October, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

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Manchester, 24th Sept. 1796.

*To the Printer of the Manchester Chronicle.*

SIR,

A LETTER addressed to the Trustees of the Infirmary having appeared in your last paper, respecting a proposed purchase of the houses in Portland-street, now occupied as fever-wards, it becomes the duty of every friend to the charities to consider the nature and tendency of so unexpected an offer from Sir John Mosley.

There is an apparent liberality in this proposal, which, if unconnected with any previous opposi-

tion to the plans of the Board of Health, or with any other claim to the other parts of the Infirmary land, would have demanded the thanks of the Trustees. But the depositaries of a public trust must always act with extreme caution, as they are agents for posterity; the concern of the richest individual for the rights of his family cannot be more nice, or more anxious, than that of the trustees of the infirmary for their numerous charge of the sick poor. We are bound alike to those who provide, and to those who receive the benefits of the charity, not to concede a single point which can be defended. Let us then examine this proposal with a little attention.

Passing over some preliminary matter, not essential to the question, it strikes us that Sir John Mosley professes to act upon the opinions held out, in a memorial presented to the Board of Health, against the present situation of the House of Recovery. This memorial, we are told, was not (in Sir John Mosley's opinion) treated with proper respect.

If to canvas objections deliberately, to consult professional bodies on their validity, and to answer them with temper, be disrespectful, then Mr. Wild's accusation of the Board of Health may be just. But it may be proper to remind your readers, that in consequence of the delivery of that memorial to the Board of Health, the opinion of the Medical Committee at the Infirmary was requested; that the

opinion of Counsel was taken ; and that a counter-memorial was published, which (in the opinion of the Town) contained a full and satisfactory answer to every objection stated in the memorial. The sentiments of the town of Manchester are sufficiently shewn in the numerous subscriptions to the Board of Health. If Sir John Mosley will take the trouble of examining the list, he will find that no institution was ever more generally, or (in proportion to its extent) more liberally supported in Manchester. It must be mentioned also, to the honour of several who had originally signed the memorial, that after seeing the reply published by the Board of Health, they became subscribers, and zealous friends to the House of Recovery, in its present situation ; some of those gentlemen even assisted in personally soliciting contributions ; some of them acknowledged that they had signed the memorial without reading it, and others had been greatly misinformed respecting its purport.

Sir John Mosley's attachment to the Infirmary cannot be doubted, since he has so strongly expressed it, through the organ of Mr. Wild ; yet it may be a question with some, whether it be not in his power to give better proof of that attachment than his present proposal affords.

While he continues to offer the land in front of the Infirmary for sale, those who consider, that the building a row of houses in that situation would make it necessary to shut UP THE INFIRMARY

ITSELF, will hardly thank him for ENLARGING THE WALKS OF THE LUNATICS.

There is an innuendo in Mr. Wild's letter to which the Trustees should pay particular attention.

He informs us, that the rules instituted forty years ago for the Infirmary, cannot safely be departed from. Shall, then, the introduction of the home-patient business, that of inoculation at the infirmary, of the cancerous-ward, and of the ward for patients seized with fever in the Infirmary, be deemed crimes, and violations, of contract?

Was the reform agreed upon by a great majority of the Trustees in September 1790, a breach of contract? Even the rescinding of the old thirteenth Rule might, by Mr. Wild's reasoning, be construed into a pretext for a resumption of the whole land.

It therefore becomes necessary for the Trustees to ascertain what are their rights, and what are Sir John Mosley's real claims. From the enquiries that have been made, there is every reason to believe, that in the establishment of the House of Recovery, no agreement was violated, respecting the land which he threatens to resume. For patients in the House of Recovery are not in-patients of the Infirmary. There is a separate house, a separate set of servants, who have no other communication with the Infirmary than the ordinary messengers from the families of home-patients; and there is a separate subscription for the maintenance of these fever-patients.



Besides, in the original conveyance of the infirmary land, the subscribers are allowed great latitude in providing accommodations for the sick poor, and there is a saving clause respecting regulations to be made in future, which obviates every doubt that might be suggested by Mr. Wild's letter. It cannot be supposed, indeed, that persons so earnest for "good works" as Mr. Wild intimates the founders of the Infirmary to have been, should have wished to prevent their successors from extending the benefits of the charity.

Some remarks on the subject of Nuisance, as applied to the fever-wards, shall be reserved for your next paper.

(Signed)

R. MEADOWCROFT.

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Manchester, 27th Sept. 1796.

*To the Printer of the Manchester Mercury.*

SIR,

THE term Nuisance, has been as currently bestowed on the House of Recovery; as if the stigma had been established by an action at law. Yet no definition of nuisance that occurs in the law-books can be applied to this institution. A nuisance, the books inform us; must be a thing evil in itself (*malum in se*) but even the Board of Protection allows the House of Recovery to be an insti-



tion most benevolent and excellent in itself, and only obnoxious to that Board on account of its situation. Legal authorities farther tell us, that every nuisance punishable by a public prosecution, must be charged to be a general annoyance of all the King's subjects; *for if they are only injuries to particular persons, they are left to be redressed by the private actions of the parties aggrieved by them.* It is perfectly understood, that the opposition to the House of Recovery originated in private interest. The pretence of public utility was indeed afterwards assumed; but it is not easy to conceive what public benefit can arise from the destruction of the Infirmary.

Lord Mansfield's definition is not correctly stated by Mr. Wild. His lordship, in the case referred to, was not speaking of nuisance in general, but of smell as a nuisance. His words were, "but it is not necessary that the smell should be unwholesome: it is enough, if it renders the enjoyment of life and property uncomfortable." This has nothing to do with the present question. But the decision respecting the Small-pox Hospital, already published by the Board of Health, is directly in point, because it was established by that decision that the apprehension does not constitute a nuisance.

If Lord Mansfield had defined nuisance, in Mr. Wild's words, to be any thing that renders the enjoyment of life and property uncomfortable, he

must still have meant to speak of real, substantial, perceptible evil, of evil whose existence could not be doubted. Extend the principle to imaginary inconvenience, and society would be at an end; every rival would then be liable to an action as a nuisance.

It may be said, that the opponents of the House of Recovery ground their belief of its danger on the opinions given by certain medical men, in direct opposition to the sentiments of the Medical Committee at the Infirmary.

It is now of little importance to enquire why some medical men have deserted the opinion which they had publicly expressed of the propriety of erecting fever-wards adjoining to the Infirmary. So remarkable an inconsistency only stamps the character of the individual; but the business is to distinguish on which side a just opinion was delivered.

Respecting these opposite opinions, the public might be at first divided, because men not engaged in the medical profession cannot well judge of medical reasoning. But the principal difference related to the consequences apprehended from the situation of the House of Recovery; and that institution having now been open for four months, having been frequently full, and never without patients, it is in the power of every man to determine which of the opinions has been sanctioned by experience.

If the House of Recovery has proved *dangerous to the neighbourhood*, if it has proved dangerous to the Infirmary; or if the infectious effluvia have found their way into the Lunatic Hospital, by the track pointed out in the ingenious plan which was circulated some time ago, then the Medical Committee of the Infirmary must forfeit their claim to the public confidence. But if these confident assertions of their opponents have proved groundless, if they have *in no one instance* been fulfilled, the reliance which the trustees have placed on the judgment of the Medical Committee, will be fully justified.

The fact is, that since the House of Recovery was opened, that is, from May 24th, to Sept. 24th, NO PERSON IN THE LUNATIC HOSPITAL OR INFIRMARY HAS CAUGHT A FEVER; and it does not appear from the strictest enquiry, that any person in Portland-street has been infected from the House of Recovery; yet during these four months there have been many dangerous cases of infectious fever, among home-patients, and in private families, in these streets behind Piccadilly and Lever's row. In Portland-street, the infection, far from spreading, has been REMARKABLY DIMINISHED during that time. Previous to the opening of the house, there were thirty houses infected in that street; since the opening of the House of Recovery, the disease was eradicated for three months together.

A remarkable diminution of infected houses has taken place in other parts of the town.

Mr. White, it may be remembered, informed the public, "that the state of the air may become infectious," and, "that it was impossible to decide, to what distance infection may be conveyed." He may now learn, to what distance infection has *not* been conveyed. Contrary to Mr. W.'s opinion, patients have been removed to the House of Recovery during this time, without injury to themselves or others. Neither the chairmen who carry them, nor "unwary passengers," have been infected *through the crevices of the sedan*. Nor have "linen or woollen clothes, rags, flocks, &c. been known" to be blown, to accidentally fall, or be thrown through the windows, to the prejudice of any one.

Mr. White went so far as to deny (p. 7. of his paper) that the removal of patients on the plan of the Board of Health would materially lessen the number of fever-patients. Yet the home-patient list was reduced one half, very soon after the House of Recovery was opened; and visitors of the Strangers' Friend Society bear ample testimony to the utility of the plan.

Experience, therefore, has established the opinion of the Medical Committee, and has completely refuted that of their opponents.

How then can the House of Recovery be termed a nuisance?

An explanation has been whispered about, but every friend of the town must hope that it is unfounded.

If there be a fixed determination to convert the ground now used as a pond, in front of the Infirmary, into A PUBLIC MARKET, the vicinity of a fever-ward might be (however unjustly) disagreeable to the proprietors. Mean time, some of the writers in opposition to the House of Recovery, who have shewn so remarkable a sympathy with the lunatics in different publications, will perhaps inform us, in what respects the noise and confusion of a market, directly before the Lunatic Hospital, will contribute to the cure of the unfortunate patients.

(Signed) R. MEADOWCROFT.

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Manchester, 6th Oct. 1796.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.



AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following Resolutions were read, and unanimously passed.

While the House of Recovery might be considered as a new institution, and while endeavours



were used to prejudice the public against it, there was a necessity for giving the public the most complete information possible respecting its management and progress. For this reason, a weekly report was issued, stating not only the number of patients admitted and discharged, but the particular circumstances under which every patient was removed. Now, however, that the utility of the plan has been fully demonstrated, and that the institution meets with general support, a considerable expence may be saved, by omitting particular recitals in the weekly reports. In future, the admission and discharge of patients will therefore be announced in the same manner with the weekly reports of the Infirmary.

The meetings of the Board of Health will be continued, on the first Thursday of every month, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the Bridge-water-Arms.

That the Treasurer be authorized to furnish clothes, and other necessaries to the patients according to his discretion, when discharged from the House of Recovery.

Adjourned to the first Thursday in November, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

November 3d, 1796.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held at the Bridgewater-Arms,

*It was resolved,*

That the letter received this day from the special Board of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Manchester, held at the Poor-house on the 27th of October, 1796, and the answer of this Board to the said letter be published in all the Manchester News-papers.

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Manchester, Oct. 27, 1796.

GENTLEMEN,

It being the opinion of a special Board held at the Poor-house this day, that the House of Recovery may be of great service to the town of Manchester, I am directed to inform you that they have subscribed fifteen guineas per annum for the above charity, which may be received by applying to Mr. Stonehouse, the present treasurer..

By order of the Board,

THOs. WILLOUGHBY, Overseer.

March 2, 1797.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms,

*It was resolved,*

I. That the report published by the Weekly Board at the Infirmary, Feb. 6, 1797, relating to the diminution in the number of fever-patients in Manchester and Salford, since the establishment of the House of Recovery, affords the highest satisfaction to this Board; and that it appears desirable, that a statement so important to the public health should be as generally circulated as possible\*.

II. That the testimonies of the special Board of the Overseers of the Poor in Manchester, of the Strangers' Friend Society, and the facts mentioned at this meeting by the physicians, be added to the report from the Infirmary.

III. That this information be published in the Sun, Star, Courier, Manchester, Liverpool, and Blackburn Newspapers.

\* With the view of promoting similar establishments in other large manufacturing towns.

## MANCHESTER INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY.

*Weekly Board,*

Monday, Feb. 6, 1797.

THE Weekly Boards having observed with great satisfaction the remarkable diminution of the number of home-patients, in the lists laid before them every Monday since the opening of the House of Recovery in May last:

This Board thinks it may be proper to inform the public, that cases of fever, in particular, have been still less frequent than might be supposed from a cursory inspection of the lists. It is obvious that the number of home-patients weekly admitted, is not, upon an average, more than half the number admitted previous to the opening of the House of Recovery; but it appears, from an inspection of the physicians' books, that the proportion of fever-patients out of the whole number patients, is much smaller than formerly: thus, on comparing the home-patients admitted in January 1796, with those of the last month, it appears that in January, 1796, the whole number of home-patients was 296, out of which 226 were cases of fever; but in January, 1797, notwithstanding the severity of the season, the number of home-patients was only 161, out of which 57 were ill of fevers.

It must be further considered, that for several months past, the Board of Health has agreed to admit patients in fevers, to the House of Recovery, from beyond the districts; and *one third* at least of the number which appears on the books must be accounted for from this regulation, by which the environs of the town are cleared from epidemic fever, making the deduction of this extraordinary class of patients, it is evident that the frequency has been reduced in a surprising degree.

Another important consideration which suggests itself to the observation of the Board, is, that during the great alarm, and distress occasioned by epidemic fevers, the claim of patients labouring under them supersede almost all others on the attention of the Trustees, so that scarcely any other cases of disease have been admitted at such times.

Those who will take the trouble of looking over the lists of diseases in the physicians' books, will be greatly struck with the difference, on seeing the variety of complaints entered within the last half year. Thus the benefits of the charity are more equally extended, than when the Infirmary and the Town were oppressed by the enormous croud of fever-patients, which was pouring in upon them, before the means of removing fever-patients were provided.

By order of the Board,

JOHN HARGREAVE, Secretary.



*Extract from the Report of the Strangers' Friend  
Society.*

Manchester, 12th Nov. 1796.

“ In our last report it was stated, that the fever  
“ was raging with great violence in many parts  
“ of the town. Happily that scourge of Heaven  
“ is now, comparatively, almost withdrawn. This  
“ important change we ascribe, under God, prin-  
“ cipally to the House of Recovery; to the salu-  
“ tary effects of which we wish in this manner  
“ to bear our public and grateful testimony.”

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MANCHESTER SPECIAL BOARD OF OVERSEERS.

October 28, 1796.

“ It being the *unanimous* opinion of the district  
“ Overseers, that the fever-wards *are* of universal  
“ benefit to this town; it was agreed, that fifteen  
“ guineas should be paid annually by the Trea-  
“ surer, as a Town's subscription to that excellent  
“ charity.”

Comparison of the number of patients ill of  
fever admitted on the physicians' books\* at the

\* When a home-patient has been recommended, and has been  
visited by a physician, his name, place of residence, age, name of  
his disease, and that of the recommender, are entered in the

Infirmary, at different periods, in Portland-street, Silver-street, and the other streets in that pile of buildings, in the neighbourhood of the House of Recovery.

From September 20th, 1793, to May 20th, 1794, number of fever-patients in these streets, four hundred.

From September 20th, 1794, to May 20th, 1795, number of fever-patients in these streets, 389.

From September 20th, 1795, to May 20th, 1796, number of fever-patients in these streets, 267.

From July 13th, 1796, to March 13th, 1797, (since the opening of the House of Recovery,) number of fever-patients in these streets, 25.

In July last, Five.

In August last, One.

In September last, None.

From the 4th to the 23d of February last, Two.

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July 6, 1797.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-

books kept by the physicians' clerk; the number of prescriptions, and the event of the disease, with the dates of the admission and discharge, are likewise registered in them, with the greatest regularity, so that they afford authentic information respecting those subjects

Arms, the following Report was read, and unanimously approved.

*Heads of the Report of the Board of Health,*

At the second Annual Meeting, May 26, 1797.

IT has been already stated in a former Report, that the Board of Health was established, to meliorate the condition of the Poor; to obviate the generation of diseases; to prevent the spreading by contagion; and to mitigate those which exist, by providing for the sick every necessary comfort and accommodation. The Trustees have now the satisfaction of announcing to the public the accomplishment of an undertaking, at once consonant to sound policy and to the principles of Christian Philanthropy.

The approbation with which they have been honoured in the prosecution of this important and comprehensive scheme of humanity, has been fully evinced by the liberal subscriptions which they have received for its support; and still more, by the very favourable testimonies of the Board of the Infirmary, of the Strangers' Friend Society, and of the Overseers of the Poor. To every friend of the Institution, the recital of them cannot fail to be interesting; and statements of such weight and respectability may call forth the patronage and beneficence of others, who have hitherto been inattentive to its merits, and to its success.\*

\* See Reports and Extracts, Page 169, &c.

These testimonials, whilst they afford cordial satisfaction to the Trustees of the Board of Health, reflect peculiar honour on the Physicians, who have attended the House of Recovery with unremitting zeal and tenderness; and to whose skill and assiduity, in the discharge of their arduous offices, every grateful and respectful acknowledgment is due.

*Resolved,*

*It was moved and seconded* that the thanks of this Board be given to Dr. Percival, for his ready compliance, and for the able manner in which he has drawn up the Preface to the Annual Report.

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September 7, 1797.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following Letter was read:

*Copy of the Letter.*

Manchester, 8th August, 1797.

## BOARD OF PROTECTION.

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When the Board of Health first projected the plan of admitting patients afflicted with contagious

fever, in their address to the public framed by their Medical Committee, they thus express themselves,

“ Some degree of alarm may be excited among those who reside in the neighbourhood of the houses to be so appropriated.”

The houses so appropriated being placed in a public street were objected to, as predicted, and those objections made known to the Board of Health, who again consulted their Medical Committee, and from the report they state:

April 4, 1796.

“ They have been aided by such Medical Council, as fully satisfies them, that no injury to Health, CAN be involved in their undertaking.”

Our fears were not done away; and to correct or confirm them we took the opinion of several Gentlemen of the Faculty, who returned for answer,

April 20, 1796.

“ From the situation of the present Fever-House, we do not suppose that the public is safe from contagious fevers.”

These opinions, on the same subject, both given by Medical men, being directly opposite, and the Board of Health having since declared that the opposition to the situation of the Fever-House, “ seems to be governed by obsolete prejudices, and by opi-



nions that science now disclaims," we think these Medical opinions whereon the propriety or impropriety of the situation of the Fever-House seems to be rested can never be so justly or properly decided upon, as by that learned and disinterested body, the College of Physicians, where science and honour cannot be doubted, and to whose determination we are ready to refer the decision of the question. Under assurance, that if the College shall confirm the opinion of the Board of Health given April 4, 1796, this Board will lay aside all opposition to the situation of the present house, and on the contrary expecting, that if the opinion given April 20, 1796, shall be confirmed, the Board of Health will discontinue the present house, after such time as shall be thought reasonable to provide another, so that no interruption may take place to the benevolent plan of affording relief to the sick poor, in any place sufficiently separated from Society as to secure public safety.

(Signed)

JOHN LEAF, Chairman.

*To T. B. Bayley, Esq. Chairman of the Board of Heal*

*The following Resolutions were then proposed, and passed unanimously.*

*Resolved,*

That whatever difference of opinion might have subsisted respecting the situation of the House of Recovery, previous to the opening of that Institution, it appears to this Meeting, that the experience of fifteen months has fully evinced, not only its general and local safety, but its extensive utility both in relation to the Town at large, and its particular neighbourhood.

That the Trustees of the Board, having perfect confidence in the justness of the opinions delivered by the Medical Gentlemen of the Infirmary, by which they have been directed in establishing the House of Recovery, and which are now sanctioned by the testimony of every public body concerned in the state of the Poor, and confirmed by unquestionable facts, can see no propriety in resorting to any other authority on a question which they consider as already decided.

That under this impression the Trustees of the Board of Health cannot acquiesce in any proposals tending to express the smallest doubt respecting the safety of the House of Recovery.

That the Secretary be directed to send a Copy of these Resolutions to Mr. Leaf.

*Copy of a Letter from the Overseers of the Poor  
in Salford, to Mr. Meadowcroft.*

SIR,

Having found from experience that the fever-wards established in Manchester have been of essential service to the Poor of Salford,

We desire your acceptance of the inclosed six guineas for the present year, and with best wishes for the welfare of such an excellent Institution, we are, Sir,

Your very humble servants,

J. GUNSON,

J. SEDDON,

Overseers of Salford Poor.

August 7, 1797.

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November 2, 1797.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT a General Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms:

This Board feels the highest satisfaction in stating to the public, the success which has attended the practice in the House of Recovery.

Of 178 patients, admitted since May 8th, 1797, 141 have been discharged cured, 8 have died, and 29 remain in the House. It is proper to mention, at the same time, that a considerable proportion of these patients consisted of persons removed from beyond the districts of the Infirmary. Yet even with this accession of numbers, the Weekly List of home-patients continues about the same standard as in healthy seasons. So many cases of dangerous fevers have occurred within the last four months, in different parts of the town and neighbourhood, that there is every reason to believe, that without the aid of the House of Recovery, the Town would again have been overwhelmed with a croud of fever-patients. The Board cannot avoid observing, however, that in consequence of extending the original plan to the reception of patients from the neighbourhood, a considerable increase of expence has been incurred; but while the benefits of the Institution are thus usefully and necessarily enlarged, they can appeal with confidence to the liberality of the Town, for an augmentation of their support of measures, which have diminished misery and mortality in a degree surpassing all calculation.

R. MEADOWCROFT, Chairman.

March 1, 1798.

BOARD OF HEALTH.  
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AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms,

It was moved and seconded that the Physicians of this Institution be requested to draw up a general statement of the House of Recovery, from its first establishment to the present period, and that the same be published in the Star, Manchester, Liverpool, and Blackburn Newspapers, for the purpose of promoting similar Institutions.

*Copy of the General Statement.*  
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## TO THE PUBLIC.

IT is with the highest satisfaction that the Board presents the following statement of the success which has attended their endeavours to meet the progress of infectious fevers.

On the most superficial view, it will appear, that the House of Recovery, instead of perpetuating contagion, as some persons groundlessly apprehend, has been eminently serviceable in freeing the streets in its neighbourhood from the disease: and its benefits have been extended to all parts of the Town and environs.



Number of patients admitted since the opening of  
the House of Recovery, May 19th, 1796, to May  
31st, 1797.

	371
<hr/>	
Discharged cured - - - - -	324
Dead - - - - -	40
Remained in the House - - -	7
	<hr/>
	371
	<hr/>

Number of patients admitted into the House of  
Recovery, from May 31st, 1797, to March 10th,  
1798.

	246
Remained in the House, May 31st, 1797,	7
	<hr/>
	253
<hr/>	
Discharged cured - - - - -	231
Dead - - - - -	9
Remain in the House - - - - -	13
	<hr/>
	253
	<hr/>

Total number of patients admitted since the open-  
ing of the House of Recovery to the present pe-  
riod,

	617
<hr/>	
Discharged cured - - - - -	555
Dead - - - - -	49
Remain in the House - - - - -	13
	<hr/>
	617
	<hr/>

Comparison of the number of patients ill of fever, admitted on the Physicians' books at the Infirmary, at different periods, in Portland-street, Silver-street, and the other streets in that pile of buildings, in the neighbourhood of the House of Recovery.

From September 20th, 1793, to May 20th, 1794, (a period of eight months selected on account of the usual prevalence of fever,) number of fever-patients in these streets, 400.

From September 20th, 1794, to May 20th, 1795, 389.

From September 20th, 1795, to May 20th, 1796, 207.

From July 13th, 1796, to March 13th, 1797, (a period of eight months, since the opening of the House of Recovery,) 25.

From April 30th, to July 30th, 1797, 1.

From May 31st, 1797, to March 10th, 1798, (a period of more than nine months,) 13.

July 11th, 1798.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.



AT a Special Meeting of the Committee of the Board of Health, held this day at the Bridgewater Arms.

The Board having taken into its consideration the great injury arising to the *health* of the inhabitants of this Town and neighbourhood, from the immense quantities of smoke arising from the chimnies of Velvet-dressers, Bakers, Smiths, Founders, Pipe-makers, Cotton-spinners, and other artificers, beg leave to request their immediate concurrence and assistance in adopting the best means of consuming or diminishing the quantity of smoke arising from the carrying on their several works or employments.

The Board is *authorised* to inform them that the excellent method of consuming smoke, invented by Messrs. Bolton and Watt, may be used without any risk of opposition from them.

Ordered, That the above be printed in the Manchester Newspapers, and copies of the same be sent to all the above mentioned artificers.

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August 2, 1792.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.



AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms.

*The third Annual Report of the Board of Health  
in Manchester, was read.*

IN offering to the public another Report of the state of this institution, it is highly gratifying to the Board of Health, that it is no longer necessary to insist on the utility of the House of Recovery, the establishment of which has occupied so much of their attention. Experience has finally decided its importance, and the Board looks with confidence to the public for the continuance of its support. During the spring and summer of this year, contagious fevers, of an alarming nature, have appeared in different parts of the Town and Neighbourhood. By removing many patients into the House of Recovery, the extension of the disease has been prevented, but the expences of the establishment have been unavoidably increased. But we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of stating a fact, which has occurred since the opening of the House of Recovery, and which no friend of humanity can hear with indifference.

During two years previous to this establishment, the expence of the Overseers in Coffins for paupers, was as follows:

	Number of Coffins.	l	s.	d.
From May 19th, 1794, to May 19th, 1795	538	149	10	0
From May 19th, 1795, to May 19th, 1796.	540	153	6	6

Since the opening of the House of Recovery, the expence has been as follows:

	Number of Coffins.	<i>l. s. d.</i>
From May 19th, 1796, to May 19th, 1797.	387	111 3 0
From May 19th, 1797, to May 19th, 1798.	364	100 16 0

To this remark it is proper to add, that the number of home-patients on the Infirmary books has also been remarkably diminished, the account stands thus :

From June, 1795, to June, 1796, the number of home-patients was - - - - - 2280

From June, 1796, (immediately after the opening of the House of Recovery,) to June, 1797, the number was - - - - - 1759

From June, 1797, to June, 1798 - - 1564

When objects of such importance are accomplished, the public must feel their own interest involved in contributing the necessary support.

There are other objects which require the attention of the Board, for farther improving the health of the poor, to which they can now devote themselves with less interruption than while their plans for the House of Recovery were contested. They will thankfully receive every information which can assist them in their views, and earnestly recommend to the Trustees a frequent and sedulous attendance at the regular Meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of every Month, at the the Bridgewater-Arms, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.



November 1st, 1798.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.



AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following Paper was read, and ordered to be published in the Manchester News-papers.

The advantages resulting to the poor from the establishment of this Institution have been so sensibly felt, and are now so generally admitted, that in soliciting the public for the continuance of their support, the Board think it unnecessary to enlarge on its merits.

They feel the greater confidence in stating the deficiency of its income, because they know that the benevolent contributions of its supporters have been applied with the strictest œconomy; and that they have been consumed only by the extraordinary number of patients, necessarily received into the House of Recovery, during a very unhealthy season, marked by a strong tendency to febrile epidemics. But the benefits of this expenditure are almost happily apparent in the general reduced state of the list of home-patients, and the total exemption of several parts of the Town from fever, in which that disease had previously prevailed for years, without interruption.

Such is the object for which the hand of Charity is again solicited, and of which the Board presume that it is only necessary to explain the wants, to have them amply supplied.

Signed, by desire of the Board,

THOS. PERCIVAL, M. D. Chairman.

Adjourned to the first Thursday in December, at the usual hour and place.

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December 6, 1798.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed :

I. That the present Wards, at certain periods of the year particularly liable to fever, have been found insufficient to accommodate all those patients whose cases have required a removal into them.

II. That the necessity has been strongly felt of appropriating a distinct Ward to patients affected by the scarlet-fever and sore throat, a disease which occasionally makes its appearance in this town, and is attended with great misery and fatality.

III. That for these reasons, the Board feels the necessity of calling upon the public for subscriptions to a fund, to be applied to the alteration and enlargement of the present building.

That the three last Resolutions be published twice in the Manchester News-papers, together with the subjoined address.

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*To the Inhabitants of Manchester, Salford, and  
the Neighbourhood.*

THE public bounty has been solicited hitherto in Annual Subscriptions to the Fever-wards or House of Recovery, an Institution which has claimed general interest and attention by its extraordinary utility, and served for a model of imitation to other populous Towns in England. The experience of nearly three years has not merely refuted the objections with which its establishment was assailed, but has even surpassed the most sanguine expectations of public advantage that were entertained by its first projectors, and most zealous advocates.

Its relations have indeed been found more extensive than the most penetrating sagacity could at first have contemplated; for, besides checking the progress of Fever, and purifying those streets which were formerly regarded as constant receptacles of it, the benefits of the House of Recovery have

been felt even in the common yearly expences of the town, which in the article of coffins alone it has reduced on an average from £157 8 3, to £105 19 6, while it has at the same time annually lessened the number of home-patients of the Infirmary, in the proportion of 1697, to 2880; which may be proved by a comparison of the total amount admitted from June 1795, to June 1796, (the year before it was established) with the average number admitted during the same period of the two succeeding years. It must also be added in justice to the House of Recovery, that it is still operating to produce a gradual decrease of the home-patients of the Infirmary, which before its institution were annually, and on the whole invariably increasing, and that this effect was seen last year in the number admitted, which was 124 less than it had been the year preceding.

By means of this Charity the first approaches of fever have been so carefully watched, and so successfully arrested, that the four small houses originally converted into Wards, have been generally found adequate to the accommodation of all the patients whose cases have required a removal into them. But there are seasons, and the present is such, peculiarly liable to produce fever, and at these times the Wards have been found insufficient for that purpose; and the necessity of an augmentation of them has been farther increased by the

unavoidable extension of the privilege of admission to persons residing beyond the limits of the Infirmary districts. The propriety also of appropriating one or more Wards distinct from the others, to patients affected by the scarlet-fever and sore throat, has been strongly felt by the Board of Health, and must be universally acknowledged by all those who have had the misfortune to witness the misery and havock which this disease produces, particularly among children. For these reasons the Board of Health are compelled by a sense of duty to call upon the public for subscriptions to a fund, to be applied to the erection of suitable additions to the Fever-wards. Books are already opened for this purpose at the places before mentioned.

The Board of Health has a just confidence in the liberality of the public, directed, as it will be in the present instance, to the improvement of an establishment which may challenge a comparison with the most beneficial and charitable institutions of this country, for the cheap production of purposes of the most important and extensive utility, and which has been attended with the most exemplary and honourable assiduity by the Medical Gentlemen engaged in it.

At a period when a malignant fever is extending its ravages in America, and almost depopulating some of the Cities of that Continent, the inhabitants of Manchester, will no doubt feel themselves impelled by the most powerful motives, to contri-



bute towards the means of averting similar calamities from their neighbours and themselves. It is not less for their own security than that of the poor, for the preservation of their own health and lives that the Board now appeals to their humanity. Happily for this town, the fever now prevalent is not so fatal as that of North America; but it is highly contagious, and the danger of infection is augmented by our increasing population, and the extraordinary addition which has been lately made to the number of Factories. The diseases against which the Board is anxious to provide a remedy as effectual as their nature admits, have not been confined to the poor. Many of the rich have marked their progress among their friends, or in their own families, and their private experience has borne testimony to the impossibility of procuring in the dwellings of the poor, such a constant and minute observation of symptoms, and such a successive variety of accommodations, as they have found to be essentially necessary in the cases which have particularly engaged their attention, and excited their sympathy.

## THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH,

*In Manchester,*

At the Fourth Annual Meeting, May 1799.

IT is not the least gratifying part of the duty of the Board of Health, to present the public with a report of their farther labours and success, in accomplishing the important objects of their institution.

A sufficient lapse of time has been afforded to determine, by the sure test of experience, the manifold and encreasing advantages of the House of Recovery. When the *almost unexampled* severity of the last winter, (a season peculiarly favourable to the growth and propagation of fever) is considered, it must excite a pleasing astonishment to find, that the average number of Fever-patients on the books the Infirmary, and of those admitted into the House of Recovery, did not exceed that of any other period of the year.

If we compare the number of Fever-patients on the Physicians' books, during the remarkably severe winter of 1794, (previous to the opening of the House of Recovery,) with the number admitted last winter, we shall be struck with surprize at their relative disproportion. During the *severe* winter of 1794, no less than 400 Fever-patients were entered on the home-patient list, from Port-

land-street and its vicinity only : a number exceeding the whole that have been admitted from the Town in general and its Neighbourhood during the last year. This singular fact may almost solely be attributed to the speedy removal of infected persons from their dwellings; and thereby preventing the spread of contagion.

Add to this, the cheerful acquiescence with which the poor have yielded to the evident advantages of an early separation of the sick from the uninfected. But the benefits resulting from an *early seclusion* of of Fever-patients have not been confined to the prevention of the growth and progress of fever: its mortality has been likewise remarkably diminished. This is proved by comparing the list of the number of deaths during the present year, with that of the first year of the opening of the House of Recovery.

From May 19th, 1796, to May 31st, 1796, of 371 patients admitted, *forty died*.

From May 31st, 1798, to May 31st, 1799, of 398 admitted, *only 27 died*.

The above particular statement has been entered upon with a view of exciting the attention of the Trustees, and public at large, to the situation of this Institution. At present we have to lament the inadequacy of the income to the expenditure. It will probably require an increase of one third of the present amount of the Annual Subscription, to defray the ordinary expences. But while the facts

above stated prove, that the objects of this institution are friendly to the best interests of humanity; that, not only accommodation, comfort, and health are bestowed upon the *sick* and *needy*; but also, that, in a great measure, *security* from one of the greatest of human calamities, is afforded to the *opulent* and *higher ranks* of society; the Board feels confident, that the patronage of a liberal public will keep pace with the encreasing wants of the Charity.

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May 30, 1800.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT the Annual Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:

*Resolved,*

That as much inconvenience has arisen from the recommendation of patients, admitted from beyond the districts, in particualar stages of fever, it is necessary for this Board to request the attention of Medical Gentlemen not connected with this Institution, to the following considerations.

That although it is the wish of the Trustees to relieve all Fever-patients, to the utmost extent of their funds, yet they cannot consider persons in a

dying state, as proper objects of admission. It is a painful duty to remark, that several persons have lately been recommended to be received into the House, who, from their distant situation from the districts, could not be visited by the Physicians of the Infirmary; that the propriety of admitting them into the House of Recovery has been attested, on the face of the recommendation, by Medical Men, unconnected with the Charity, who had seen the patients; but, that when these persons have been removed into the House, with as little delay as possible, they have been actually dying, or at least have survived their removal only a few hours.

This is a practice, which the Board must entirely disapprove, as contrary to the judgment and the conduct of the Physicians to the Institution, as dangerous to the patients, and injurious to the credit of the Charity: the practice in the House having hitherto been remarkably successful. The Board, therefore, wishes to impress strongly on the minds of professional men, who may be incidentally called upon to give attestations for the admission of patients beyond the districts, the necessity of distinguishing between that state in which a patient may be safely removed, and that in which the danger may be greatly increased, and even death may be occasioned, by the fatigue of conveying him to a distance.



## THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH,

*In Manchester,*

At the Fifth Annual Meeting, May 30, 1800.

THE great and evident utility of this Institution having produced a general conviction in its favour, it is only necessary to state in this Report, that the good effects of it during the past year have not been less important, or less extensive, than in preceding years. Upon several different occasions, when Fever was beginning to spread in a very formidable manner in particular districts, the removal of the infected objects has checked its progress, and subdued its violence. How many among us at this day owe their lives, under providence, to this establishment we presume not to determine, but we believe the number to be very large. And who that reads this, can say, that he himself is not of that number? For malignant infection strikes, like sparks from the anvil, in apparently irregular directions, and sometimes is communicated to those who seemed to stand at the remotest distance from it.

Entirely to prevent the fatal inroads of this awful disease, we presume not to hope: for Fever is continually generated, in filthy Lodging Houses, in crowded Factories, in Damp Cellars, and in places

exposed to the baneful effluvia of Dunghills, open Sewers, and Stagnant Waters. From such situations it is probably never entirely expelled; and when at any time it appears almost subdued, it bursts out again, like concealed combustibles at the touch of fire, with redoubled explosion. It were much to be wished that this Institution could proceed to those *other objects*, which at its first establishment it professed to have in view, and which are so intimately connected with the health and comforts, not only of the Poor, but of every order of persons among us. The time will, we trust, come, when the general feeling will so far anticipate and animate our labours, that we shall be loudly called upon to endeavour to quench Infection where it is first kindled, by such regulations as may insure greater cleanliness and order, where they are so much wanted, and when the want necessarily entails upon so many victims, misery and death. We lament to state, that, from the uncommon pressure of the times, the expenditure of the House of Recovery has so far exceeded its income. What has been felt so heavily in every smaller family, must have been felt with proportionable weight in our large establishment. But we look up confidently to a liberal and enlightened public, for a continuance and increase of the support which we have thus far experienced.

We also take this opportunity of repeating, what

we have already thought it necessary to state in the News-papers, “ that this Institution has experienced no small addition to its expences, as well as diminution of its APPARENT utility, from the number of patients who have been sent into the House of Recovery, from districts beyond those regularly visited by the Medical Gentlemen of this establishment, *in a dying state*.

These persons have been recommended by Medical Men at a distance, who did not properly consider the circumstances of the case: And in consequence of this, several patients have died as soon as they were brought into the house; others have not survived the hurry of this conveyance above an hour or two after admission. We are happy in being able to say, that the general practice of the house has been, as in former years, remarkably successful. It is therefore with great concern that we find the list of deaths by such means as these, which must have a tendency to injure so good a cause.

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November 21st, 1800.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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A Meeting being called of the Physicians and Surgeons of this Institution, by desire of the Treasurer, they assembled this day at the Infir-

mary, when the following Letter was read, and part ordered to be printed in the Manchester News-papers.

The following Letter has been received by the Treasurer of the Board of Health.

He thinks it to be his duty to make public an offer not less distinguished for its benevolence than its seasonableness; as from the greatest increase of the number of Fever-patients, the present House of Recovery is by no means equal to their accommodation; and likewise from the high price of provisions, the funds of this Charity are very inadequate to its expences. A Meeting, therefore, of all the Subscribers to the Board of Health, and others benevolently inclined, is earnestly solicited for Wednesday the 26th instant at the Bridgewater-Arms, at 11 o'clock precisely, to take the following proposal into consideration, and to adopt such measures as may be most likely to meet the present exigency.

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*Copy of the Letter sent to the Treasurer of the Board of Health.*

November 18th, 1800.

AS the fever prevails so much in the Town, it is much to be lamented that the House of Recovery is on so small a scale; and to be wished that the benefits of so excellent an Institution may be immedi-

ately extended. It is hoped that, on enquiry, a house may be had, which the Board of Health will approve of, for an additional Fever-ward on this pressing occasion.

The writer hereof begs to propose this plan to the consideration of the Board, which he flatters himself will meet with the support of the Town.

That no time may be lost, and the Board may proceed on sure grounds, if they approve of the scheme, he proposes immediately to make a donation of two hundred pounds into the hands of the Treasurer towards the expence of it; and he farther promises that whatever the donations and subscriptions on this occasion fall short, in six months from this date, of £500 — he will chearfully make up himself, provided the Town continues so sickly as to make such an additional expence to the present establishment necessary.

The Board are therefore assured of means in the course of six months to defray the expence of such proposed additional Fever-ward, provided it does not exceed £500.

The writer is of opinion it may be the means of promoting subscriptions to keep the funds for the support of the Fever-wards. separate for the present; and to hold secret his proposals farther than his donation of £200. Yet the Board have his permission to make what use they think proper of this paper; their Treasurer is his confidant.



November 26th, 1800.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.



AT a Special Meeting of the Board of Health, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following Letter was read, and ordered to be published in the Manchester News-papers.

See Copy of the Letter, page 220.

*Resolved,*

I. That the above truly, benevolent, and seasonable offer, be gratefully accepted; and that the best thanks of this Meeting be given to the donor, whose charitable intentions it is confidently hoped will be aided by a general subscription.

II. As the calamitous state of the sick Poor demands immediate relief, it is the opinion of this Board that an additional place for the reception of Fever-patients should be immediately opened; and that books of subscription be laid before the public, in order that a fund may be raised for the support of this separate establishment.

III. That a Committee be appointed to carry the above plan into immediate execution, and that any three of the Gentlemen who constitute the Committee be competent to act.

April 2d, 1801.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms:

*Resolved,*

That Mr. Meadowcroft be requested to lay before the Church-Wardens and Overseers of Manchester and Salford, a statement of the expenditure of the House of Recovery, with the number of patients admitted during the last six months, and to submit to them the necessity as well as propriety of their subscribing a sum proportionate to the burden laid upon this Charity by the great increase of patients, and the advance of every necessary article of life.

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July 2d, 1801.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following Preface to the Annual Report, for which the thanks of the

Board were voted to Dr. Jackson, was read, and ordered to be printed in the Manchester Newspapers.

### THE PREFACE.

From various causes it is much to be apprehended, that Manchester will long continue to be more or less infested with fever. Last season, deficiency of the necessaries of life, with its attendants, weakness of body and depression of mind, contributed both to the diffusion, and to the virulence of the disease, there having been an increase above the former year of nearly 3000 patients. So numerous and urgent were the demands for admission into the House of Recovery, that we were constrained in the course of last Winter, to fit up rooms for thirteen additional beds. But still we have been unable to accommodate more than two patients in nine, who applied. Of those who, for want of room, were unfortunately excluded, the deplorable situation of many could scarcely fail to baffle all the resources of the Medical Art.

Their cellars are always damp and dirty, and often, from their contiguity to the common sewers, extremely disagreeable.

Sometimes they are so dark, that the patients cannot be seen without the light of a candle; and so badly ventilated, that the atmosphere around the patients becomes intolerably offensive, and the Physicians can with difficulty continue at the bed-

side sufficiently long to ascertain fully the state of the disease. The bed clothes frequently consist of the tattered remnants of Tarpaulings and Cotton bags. Not seldom, half a dozen in a family are sick at one time, of whom three or four are panting in the same bed together; or, destitute of a bed, some are stretched along chairs; or, not being possessed of chairs, are laid upon the ground; or, there not being sufficient space for them on the floor, are shoved below looms, or cooped up in corners among lumber.

Now and then, the people are so strongly prejudiced in favour of some particular mode of treatment, that they persist in disobeying the Physician's strictest injunctions. Sometimes a solitary individual lies sick in a room, without a friend to shew pity, or render assistance. Sometimes, all the members of a numerous family are confined at the same time; every one unable to give help to another, and their neighbours afraid to go near them.

And in lodging houses, it is not unusual to meet with a cruel and indifferent mistress, who can give no account of the sick in her house; who can inform neither when they were taken ill, nor how they have been affected; who refuses to take any charge of them in future, to administer their Medicines, or even a cup of cold water; and assigns as the reason, that they are nothing to her, they are only lodgers.

When the Overseer has the goodness to provide a nurse, things are often become desperate before her arrival; and when she has arrived, there is no proper check on her conduct, and therefore full dependance cannot be placed on her care and attention. To patients in such circumstances the art of the Physician is vain. He repeats his visits only to witness misery which he cannot alleviate; and at last to record in the books of the Infirmary, that, the last friend of the Wretched—Death—has brought relief.

Nothing can meet the present, or similar exigencies, unless an enlargement of the House of Recovery. The safety of that Institution is satisfactorily experienced, and the advantages accruing from it are many and important.

1st. As far as its influence reaches, it checks the multiplication of fever by contagion: and, from the peculiarities of the Town, contagion is more to be dreaded than the public seems to be fully aware of.

Very many poor families occupy one apartment only. The healthy, therefore, must live constantly in the atmosphere of the sick; whereby not only they themselves are exposed to the disease, but their clothes and every article in the house become charged with infection. A patient in fever has been known to be covered, for want of bed-clothes, with fleeces of Cotton-Wool, which had been picked in the chamber where she lay. How ex-



tensively might each of those fleeces spread the disease !

2d. A House of Recovery furnishes the means of restoring the sick with more expedition and certainty to the enjoyments and duties of health.

It affords them the advantages of comfortable lodging, a comfortable bed, ventilation, cleanliness, good diet, an attentive, experienced nurse, the due administration of Medicines, and lastly, the watchful eye of the Physician, who then, and then only, would have it in his power to give them proper attendance.

3d. A House of Recovery upon a larger scale would ultimately prove a saving to the public. For, 1st. The expences of attending several of its departments would be very little increased. In regard to Matron, Secretary, Boy for carrying Messages, Cooks, Kitchen-fires, and Utensils, Medicines, &c. there would be scarcely any sensible difference. 2dly, It would bring upon the public funds few or no additional poor. Most of the names in the home-patients' books of the Infirmary are to be found at the same time in the books either of the Overseers, or of the Strangers' Friend Society. If these people must be supported by the public, surely, it imports little whether they are at home or in the House of Recovery. 3dly, There would be a considerable reduction in the number of nurses employed.

At present many are retained to wait upon single

families, and even individuals, who with perfect ease would take charge of a dozen of sick. Besides the mother of a family must do the duty of a nurse to every member of it who is confined: And therefore she receives an allowance from the Town, in lieu of the profits of her usual employment, which, for the time, she is obliged to relinquish. 4thly, The sickness of the father or mother of a family so engages the rest, that commonly all of them fall a burden on the public. But were the sick person removed, the remainder would be at liberty to make some exertions for themselves. 5thly, Fever would not be so generally diffused by contagion: Therefore, there would be fewer sick persons; and consequently fewer destitute families.

Lastly, In proportion as the Fever-Wards afforded a higher chance of recovery than their own dismal abodes, Manchester would probably contain fewer widows and orphans. And surely money would be better employed in providing the best means of preserving the parent, than in rearing his offspring after his decease; who, for the most part, are thrown upon the Town, to continue a burden for years; deprived too of the advantages of paternal tuition, and of the virtues which are awakened by domestic endearments.

July 20th, 1801.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.



AT the adjourned Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:

1st. That one or more houses be engaged for the accommodation of Fever-patients, until such time as an adequate building can be established to meet every future exigency.

2d. That a Committee be appointed to carry the above plan into effect; and to adopt such measures as may be necessary to ensure Benefactions and Subscriptions for defraying the necessary expences; and that the following Gentlemen compose the Committee.

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 November 5th, 1801

## BOARD OF HEALTH.



AT the Monthly Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:

*Resolved,*

1st. That to promote the health and prosperity of these Towns, it is essentially necessary a subscription be opened to raise a fund for the erection of spacious and well arranged Fever-Wards.

2d. That the funds of this Institution being exhausted; to continue it on its present plan, and be further provided for its support on the proposed extension, additional Annual Subscription are indispensibly necessary; and it is hoped that all who have the means will cheerfully contribute their assistance.

3d. That, for these purposes, a general collection be made throughout the Towns of Manchester and Salford.

4th. That this Board observes with great satisfaction, the following opinion expressed in the Report from the Infirmary for the last year, respecting the necessity of establishing Fever-Wards on an extensive scale.

*Extract from the Infirmary Report.*

It is to be hoped, that such seasons as the past will seldom return. But would it not be proper to be in readiness to meet them when they do unfortunately come, with the most prompt and efficient remedy? That remedy is generally agreed to be; "*the enlargement of the HOUSE OF RECOVERY.*" This we consider as a most necessary and noble Institution for the public good. It has the general

sanction, and the warm approbation of all who have impartially witnessed the great and good effects which it has already produced. In how many instances has it quenched the sparks of infection, when they were about to spread the conflagration all around? It has thus saved many families, and perhaps neighbourhoods, from fatal contagion. Who can say, that he has not himself been one of those victims, who have been thus providentially rescued from death?

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December 10th, 1801,

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT the Adjourned Meeting of the Trustees of this Institution, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms:

*The following Paper, written by Dr. Bardsley, was read.*

The great increase of low and infectious Fever among the Poor of this Town and Neighbourhood, during the last and present year, has induced the Board of Health to renew its enquiries concerning the best means of guarding against and suppressing a calamity, so peculiarly afflictive to the labouring classes of the community. From the information.



given by the Physicians of the Infirmary, and other persons employed in attending upon the sick, the Board of Health is enabled to affirm, that, with proper caution on the part of the Poor, and due attention on that of their landlords, the origin and progress of fever, and other infectious diseases, might be greatly counteracted, if not entirely subdued. To effect this desirable purpose, the Board earnestly solicit the attention of the Poor to the following observations and instructions:

1st. Be careful to avoid living in dark, damp, and confined cellars; or in back streets adjoining to privies, or heaps of offensive and corrupted matter; as this is one of the most common, and certain causes of infectious fever.

2d. As fevers are found to prevail most wherever families have been crowded together in small rooms, and especially where there is not a sufficiency of beds and bed-covering, it strongly behoves you to guard against the danger arising from such a mode of living: indeed, did you but consider, that one of the surest means of preventing fever, and hindering its spread, is to provide a proper number of clean beds for the use of your families, both in sickness and in health, you would be led to lay out every farthing you can save, in the purchase of such valuable comforts. How often have the feelings of your Benefactors been hurt, by seeing, in some habitations, an useless and expensive piece of furniture, such as a gaudy clock, or ornamental

chest of drawers, when the miserable husband, his wife, and numerous family of both sexes, have been compelled to lie crowded together in one bed, for want of any other accommodation: this is an increasing, and a crying evil, and, as such, demands the serious attention of every poor person, who has any regard for the wealth and morals of his family.

3d. Strict attention is necessary to keep your houses, and persons, in as regular a state of neatness and cleanliness, as your employments. It is a certain truth, that most fevers arise in those parts of the Town, where the people pay the least regard to a cleanly and decent mode of living; and, since the trouble of half an hour each day is sufficient for the purpose of cleansing your habitations and persons, it must either proceed from a shameful degree of idleness, or a disgraceful satisfaction in dirt and filth, that a small portion of your time is not so employed. It has been observed, that want of cleanliness and fresh air gave rise to that worst kind of fever, called jail fever, which frequently resembles the fever so common among that class of inhabitants, who are least attentive to cleanly habits.

4th. Children, who work in Cotton-Mills during the night, are more liable to fevers, and other kinds of sickness, than those, who are employed only in the day; but if you are under the necessity of exposing your offspring to the dangers of night labour, take care that they are not deprived of

their sufficient quantity of sleep during the day, and do not suffer them to sleep with their clothes on, or to lie down, till the bed, from which the family must necessarily just have risen, has been properly prepared to receive them. It is too often the practice of careless mothers to suffer their children, who are night-workers, to sleep by the fire-side, or upon the floor; a practice most injurious to their healths, and to the welfare of the family.

5th. Let your children be fed, and washed, before they are sent out to their daily work; and take particular care to wash their feet and legs clean, as often as occasion requires; by attention to this simple rule, your beds and apparel will be kept in a more clean and comfortable state, which will serve materially to guard you against infection.

6th. Be careful to take your meals at stated times: this not only promotes health, but likewise frugality, and, instead of half starving yourselves, and families, by living chiefly upon tea, in which there is little, if any nourishment, let a part of your diet consist of rice (a most wholesome and cheap kind of food) and soups, prepared from meat and vegetables: this kind of diet will enable you to sustain bodily labour; and, in a great measure, will preserve you from the attack of disease.

7th. Fevers have, of late, been much increased by poor families coming, from a distance, destitute of clothes and money. These are thrust into some damp and dismal cellars, where, from

want of beds and proper nourishment, the worst kind of fever is produced, and frequently spread throughout the neighbourhood. Whenever such cases occur, either among strangers or others, within the district of the Infirmary, it is both your duty, and interest, to give immediate notice of the same, either to the Overseers, to some Trustee of the Infirmary, or to Mr. Bellott, No. 10, Oldham-street, who will pay two shillings to every person giving such information.



The Board of Health consider it also as a very important part of their duty to offer the following suggestions to the landlords of the Poor.

The prevalence of fever in this Town is greatly to be attributed to the improper situation, and bad mode of construction of the habitations for the Poor; it is a common practice, to contrive cellars considerably below the surface of the ground, both to the front and back of each building, where there is not a sufficient inlet of light, or air; or drains for the purpose of carrying off the water; in consequence whereof, these abodes are damp, dismal, and unhealthy, and afflict their miserable inhabitants with colds, fevers, and other diseases. In many parts of the Town, houses are erected, with their fronts opposite to open privies, and joining to accumulations of every kind of filth, and

where the space between the fronts of one range of buildings, and the back of the other, is so narrow, as to prevent the circulation of air, or free admission of light.

To such a degree has the inattention of landlords to the welfare of the Poor arisen, that, in many new buildings, there is an absolute want of any casements, or other means of letting air into the apartments by opening the windows: the consequence of this is, that, from want of a proper ventilation, the Poor become sick; and, when in this state, they are liable to suffer injury, from the partial admission of air through the panes of the windows, which are necessarily broken for that purpose. The necessity of frequently white-washing the cellars and houses of their tenants, has often been urged to landlords; but it appears, that almost an universal neglect of so cheap and salutary a method of preventing disease, prevails throughout the habitations of the Poor. If landlords would but consider their true interest, they would be desirous to obviate the above-mentioned evils, as, no doubt, the incapacity of the Poor to pay their rents arises chiefly from their being so frequently subject to diseases.

T. B. BAYLEY, President.



*Resolved unanimously,*

That Dr. Bardsley's Paper be published in the Manchester News-papers, and 2000 copies of the same be printed on a large sheet for distribution

That this Meeting be adjourned to Thursday the 24th instant at the usual hour and place.

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July 15th, 1802.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

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AT the Adjourned Meeting, held this day at the Bridgewater-Arms, the Preface to the Annual Report was read, and unanimously agreed to.

## THE PREFACE.

On presenting to the Public their seventh Annual Report, the Board of Health review with cordial satisfaction the benefits which have attended their establishment for the suppression of contagious fevers. It is highly gratifying to their feelings to witness the increased approbation bestowed on a scheme, which in its infancy was unpopular, and to many a source of groundless uneasiness and alarm; for, on a retrospect of six years, they can state with confidence, that no instance of infection has been traced from the Fever-ward to any individual out of the house; while upwards of three

thousand persons have been restored to health in that asylum, and, on an estimate probably much below the truth, ten times that number have been rescued from impending danger.

During the two last years, epidemic fevers have been unusually prevalent, and fatal in a very high degree, not only in Manchester, but in the Metropolis, and several of the principal Towns throughout the island; and demands for the admission of patients into the House of Recovery became so numerous and urgent, that the Trustees were under the necessity of engaging additional apartments, to carry into effect the purposes of this Institution.

By the liberality, however, of a benevolent and discerning Public, a fund has been at length raised for the erection of a more commodious and extensive building, which will, we trust, enable us to enlarge the sphere of our utility, and provide for any similar emergency that may occur in future. And we look forward, with anxious expectation, to the removal of those prejudices, which have hitherto obstructed the Committee in the choice of a proper situation.

The objects which claim our attention have been so fully described in former reports, that it may appear superfluous to insist on them in the present. But there are some truths that cannot be too often repeated, or urged too seriously, in order to warn

individuals, in every station of life, of the danger they incur by their own neglect or imprudence.

I. It is a fact generally admitted, that the fevers which occasion so much distress in all large Towns, originate in a peculiar contagion, generated in close and crowded apartments.

II. These disorders are propagated not only by the contact of persons actually diseased, but by effluvia exhaled from articles of clothing, beds, and other substances of a loose and spongy texture.

Thus we are informed by Sir John Pringle, that  
 “ a parcel of old tents, which had been used for  
 “ bedding by some sick soldiers, were put into the  
 “ hands of a tradesman, who employed twenty-  
 “ three workmen to repair them: seventeen of  
 “ whom died of the distemper which they received  
 “ by contagion.” The inferences deducible from these facts are obvious; but we can neither prevail on the Poor to quit their loathsome habitations, nor on the owners to convert their premises to other uses. There can be little doubt, that the prevalence of fever in Cotton-Mills, and other large manufactories, would be in a great measure obviated, by the frequent admission of fresh air, by washing the floors and frames at proper intervals; and, more especially, if proper attention were bestowed by the proprietors on the personal cleanliness of the individuals they employ; and if visitors were appointed to inspect, from time to time, the condition of their dwellings. The last precaution

becomes doubly requisite, when materials are sent out to undergo various operations: as the Physicians of this establishment have frequently remarked in the houses they visit, that Cotton Wool, Fustians, and other articles apt to imbibe contagion, are used by the Poor as substitutes for bedding. Of the success which has attended our exertions to arrest the progress of contagious diseases, the particulars annexed to this Report exhibit, we apprehend, the most convincing evidence: but wholly to obviate their production, requires a more general co-operation of every class of our Fellow-Townsmen, and a sacrifice of individual interest, which experience does not warrant us to look for.

Whole ranges of buildings, tenanted by the Poor, are utterly incapable of being rendered salubrious; and will continue to burthen the charity with victims of disease and misery in endless succession.

It is greatly to be lamented that, notwithstanding the late rapid increase of our population, no scheme has been devised for providing the labouring classes with suitable dwelling houses, in healthy situations.

The want of proper regulations in common lodging houses, is an evil on which we have often had occasion to animadvert; and for which we are persuaded no adequate remedy can be obtained without parliamentary interposition. We are sorry to be under the necessity of repeating, what it was thought proper to state some time ago in the Newspapers: that this Institution has suffered no small

addition to its expences, as well as a diminution of its apparent utility, by the number of patients who have been sent into the House of Recovery from places beyond the districts, several of whom have not survived the hurry of conveyance more than an hour or two after their admission, these persons have been recommended by practitioners, who did not properly weigh the circumstances of the cases, and who were probably unaware of the impropriety of removing patients in the advanced stages of typhus. Instances have, indeed, occurred in Town, where, from a total want of accommodation, the desertion of attendants, and the impossibility of obtaining proper nurses, patients have been removed under circumstances that seemed to preclude all expectation of recovery.

We cannot conclude this address without advertising to an event which has deprived our association of one of its most valuable members. Mr. Bayley, our late president, took an early and an active part in the formation of this establishment, and continued to the time of his death to superintend its concerns with unremitting assiduity.

*Resolved,*

That the thanks of the Board be given to Dr. Holme, for the Preface drawn up by him to the Annual Report.



## REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE,

March 2d, 1803.

THE Committee, appointed by the Board of Health, to prepare plans and estimates for the erection of a new House of Recovery, having now ascertained the amount of the sums which will probably be required for that purpose, beg leave to submit the following statement of their views to the supporters of that Charity. The experience of nearly eight years has sufficiently evinced the utility of removing patients sick of fever, from their own habitations to clean and well ventilated wards: it is therefore unnecessary to press the consideration of the general plan any farther on the public mind.

But it is proper to explain why the Committee recommend that a large building, which will require the expenditure of a considerable sum of money, should be provided for this end; and why the public are called upon for additional aid, after the liberal subscriptions which they have already contributed. It must occur to every person, who has attended to the facts already published by the Board of Health, that the causes of contagious fever are rapidly multiplying in this Town and neighbourhood. The number of large Cotton manufactories lately erected, the introduction of

other branches of manufacture by machinery, and the consequent increase of inhabitants, without adequate increase of dwellings for their reception, cannot fail to inspire apprehensions in those who have watched the progress of sickness and mortality in former years. The only security against a recurrence of evils, similar to those which were formerly experienced, consists in providing accommodations for the removal of many patients on the first appearance of an epidemic. It is calculated, that a house capable of receiving an hundred patients will probably be equal to every emergency, in the present state of the Town.

Many difficulties presented themselves to the Committee in determining on the choice of a situation for the new House of Recovery. It must necessarily be placed as near the centre of the Town as possible, to equalize the distances from which the sick are to be removed; and to render the requisite frequency of attendance more easy to the Physicians. It is also desirable that the House of Recovery should be situated near the Infirmary, for the readier supply of medicines and wine from the Shop. The Committee hope that all these objects may be accomplished on the piece of ground which they have purchased, adjoining Portland-street, Ayton-street, and Chatham-street, and nearly opposite to the present House of Recovery.

A situation so eligible in many respects could not be obtained without considerable expence: the pre-

mium required from the Trustees is £735, and the ground rent £300 per annum. When the value of the building in front of the land is considered, and a deduction is made of the sum of £200 per annum, for which they are let at present, the purchase will, appear sufficiently advantageous. The Committee propose to let the buildings to Portland-street remain in their present state, and to erect the House of Recovery on the back part of the ground, parallel to Chatham-street, as it appears in the annexed plan. From a comparison of estimates made by different builders, the Committee find that a plain, but substantial and commodious building, of the requisite size, cannot be completed for less than £4500, a sum, which, added to the above premium, exceeds their present building fund by £1400. A farther sum in addition to this is very desirable for the purpose of reducing the chief rent. One additional source of expence in the plan has arisen from annexing Wards for patients in scarlet-fever; a disease so infectious, that it is necessary to separate the sick and their nurses from all communication with the convalescents from low-fever and their attendants.

The ravages occasioned by scarlet-fever for many months past, in the neighbourhood of Manchester, too clearly prove the necessity of providing a barrier against its future attacks. As it may sometimes be requisite to remove the greater part, or even the whole of a family, infected with this dis-

ease, at the commencement of the epidemic, the Wards appropriated to their reception must occupy a considerable space in the building.

It is the wish and the hope of the Committee, that a small part only of the intended House of Recovery may be in general tenanted by fever-patients. But seasons of general distress must be expected sometimes to recur, when, from complicated causes, the Poor become unusually liable to fever. At such times, the House of Recovery will not be found too large ; and the Committee confidently expect, that it will then furnish effectual means of arresting the progress of the epidemic, and of rescuing many industrious families from destruction. When accommodations shall be provided, which shall enable the Physician, to clear an infected house of all its inhabitants, and to put their wearing apparel in a train of cleansing and ventilation, while the emptied house is fumigated and white-washed, the danger arising from crowded population may be greatly checked, if not entirely counteracted.

Much difficulty has been hitherto experienced concerning the admission of patients, who live beyond the districts of the home-patients. It frequently happens that patients are recommended, whose residence is at Ardwick, beyond the Crescent in Salford, or at the extremity of the houses in Newton-lane ; distances at which neither the Physicians nor their clerk can be expected to attend. It is the wish of the Committee, that a person of

Medical education should be appointed as resident clerk in the new House of Recovery, a principal part of whose duty should be to visit patients recommended beyond the districts, and to send them, if necessary, into the House of Recovery. The Physicians' clerk at the Infirmary will take care, after the new House of Recovery is opened, to send such recommendations to the resident clerk at the Fever-Wards.

By this arrangement, much delay and many dis-appointments will be saved, both to the Trustees recommending, and to the families of patients. One or more Wards will be set apart for the reception of domestic servants, to be admitted, after proper examination, on the recommendation of a Subscriber, the master or mistress of such servants undertaking to pay a reasonable-sum for their wine, subsistence and medicines.

Another Ward will also be appropriated for such servants in a state of convalescence.

The Committee think it proper to mention another proposed alteration, which it is expedient to adopt, from the peculiar circumstances of the subscription to the House of Recovery. All recommendations have hitherto passed through the medium of the Infirmary, and the objects admitted into the House of Recovery have been considered as home-patients of that Institution, from which they have been accordingly supplied with medicines and wine. But it is now found, that there are



upwards of 200 Subscribers to the House of Recovery, who do not subscribe to the Infirmary: and, according to the rules originally formed, none of these Gentlemen can recommend a patient to the House of Recovery.

As a matter of justice to this class of Subscribers, it is proposed, that when the new building is opened, they shall have the power of recommending patients, who will be removed into the house, if necessary, by order of the Physicians; and that medicines and wine shall be provided for patients thus introduced, at the expence of the House of Recovery, under arrangements which may be hereafter made with the Board of the Infirmary.

Under these circumstances, the Committee trust, that they will appear to be acting strictly within the line of their duty, when they apply for an extension of the public liberality, for the completion of a plan, the benefits of which will accrue entirely and most extensively to the Public at large.

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## PREFACE

*To the eighth Report of the Board of Health.*

SINCE the publication of our last Report we have to congratulate the Public on the accomplishment of our views respecting the establishment of a House of Recovery, on a scale adapted to the

probable exigencies of the Town and its immediate neighbourhood. The spirit and liberality with which subscriptions have been furnished, enable us to erect a building that will accommodate an hundred patients; and by means of which the rise and progress of infectious fevers may, we trust, be in a great degree counteracted.

During the last year, comparatively few cases of the typhus, or low fevers have made their appearance; but the neighbourhood of the Town has been visited by a dreadful scourge, the scarlet-fever and sore throat, which has cut off numbers of different ages, and which has been particularly formidable in the dwellings of the Poor. Nor has the Town itself entirely escaped.

Against this evil it was impossible to provide, in the contracted plan of the Old Fever-Wards; in the new building we shall be able to receive a considerable number of such cases, and to separate them entirely from patients ill of low-fever, and their attendants.

For the accomplishment of a plan on so extensive a scale, heavy expences have necessarily been incurred. The estimate of the building amounts to £4740, and the annual ground-rent to £300, exclusive of a premium of £735, paid to the late proprietors. Of this annual rent a considerable part is discharged by the building in Portland-street, which lets for £200 a year.

It is highly desirable, however, to prevent em-

barrassments in the funds of the Charity, that the remaining £100 a year should be redeemed as soon as possible. On this, as on every other occasion of moment to the interests of the Institution, we entertain no doubt of receiving the support of the Public. Some expence must also be incurred, in purchasing new furniture for an additional number of Wards. Iron bedsteads, which it is necessary to use, for the destruction of contagion, are articles of considerable expence in the first instance.

Among other regulations requisite for the new institution, it has been thought proper to grant a power of recommending patients immediately to the House of Recovery, to those Trustees of the Board of Health who do not subscribe to the Infirmary. The following is a copy of the rule passed for this purpose, which we insert for the information of the Trustees.

*Ninth Rule for the Government of the House of Recovery.*

“ Such Trustees as do not subscribe to the Infirmary, shall have the right of recommending patients to be visited by the Physicians, if within the districts, or by the resident clerk, within certain limits hereafter to be fixed, beyond the districts : and when patients so recommended are admitted into the house, medicines and wine shall be pro-

vided for them at the expence of the House of Recovery." As several months must yet elapse, before the new House of Recovery can be finished for the reception of patients, the usual mode of admission will be continued during the interval.

Due notice will be given to the Trustees of the opening of the new building.

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## PREFACE

### *To the ninth Report of the Board of Health.*

AFTER what has already been so often and so well said on the manifold benefits, both public and private, resulting from this Institution; and when the experience of several years has now demonstrated the wisdom of theoretical reasonings by the happiest and most convincing proofs derived from practice; it would be superfluous to insist any longer on a subject, concerning which there can be but one opinion amongst the considerate and unprejudiced. We shall therefore take it for granted that whilst Health continues to be regarded by mankind as holding the chief rank in the catalogue of natural blessings, and whilst the loss of it is accounted the most deplorable of natural evils, the views and purposes of this Board cannot fail to excite an interest in the public mind, proportioned to the importance of its objects, and to the variety

and extent of the measures necessary for their accomplishment.

But though it ceases to be requisite to enlarge on the manifest advantages derived from the present establishment; yet, it is to be feared there will always remain a necessity of endeavouring to excite, even amongst its warmest advocates, the zeal and energy needful to extend and secure those advantages. For the misfortune is, it is easier to see and to allow the general excellence of a plan, than to follow up the conviction by labouring to give it full and permanent effect. Thus we often indulge an indolent contentment in approving and admiring the purpose which recommends itself to our judgment, but we forget that approbation and admiration alone will do but little towards its accomplishment. In the mean time the evils, against which we thought to provide a remedy, encrease and multiply upon us daily, whilst our *embryo-projects* to oppose them either never come to a birth, or to such a feeble and imperfect one, as leaves them utterly incapable of grappling with their gigantic and growing antagonists.

It is not intended to apply these observations to the *past* efforts of the patrons of our institution, or to insinuate that they have been defective either in wisdom or vigour: it is only meant to secure, amongst our advocates, a *continuation* of those exertions which have already been so laudably and successfully made, and to stimulate to an *encreasing*



ardour, proportioned to the sad increasing necessity which calls it into operation. We are solicitous also to hint, that our plan is yet only in its infancy, and that the wisdom, the benevolence, and the activity, which were requisite to give it birth, and to cherish it to its present growth, will be equally necessary to advance it to maturity. Much indeed has been already done, and we trust done well, but much more remains to be done. In a large and populous town, it is to be expected that through the carelessness of some, and the profligacy of others, new causes of disease will be perpetually generating and multiplying, and will therefore require new attention to note, new courage to combat, and new remedies to remove them: The Board of Health pledges itself to the public to discharge these important duties, and by that pledge binds all its patrons and benefactors, both generally and individually, to co-operate in marking the origin and progress of disease, in reporting the same to the Board, and in applying the proper antidotes. It is no longer therefore the exclusive office of the medical professor and practitioner to attend to the sources of public malady, for every gentleman, who has enrolled his name on the honourable list of subscribers and benefactors to this excellent institution, assumes in some degree, by virtue of that enrolment, the dignified but responsible character of a guardian and protector of the public against the spread and encroachment of distemper:

And if every gentleman so enrolled would only be at the pains to note, in his own neighbourhood, whatsoever is likely to prove injurious to the public health, and to communicate his remarks to the Board at its Monthly Meetings; if, in addition to the pecuniary aid which his generosity supplies, he would make a point of conscience (for certainly conscience ought to be consulted where life and its comforts are in question) of enriching the Board with his more valuable observations, of informing it by his counsels, and of strengthening it by his presence and authority, there would then be every flattering ground of hope that, under the blessing of Providence, the admirable designs of our Institution might be brought by degrees to their intended perfection, and the public might rejoice in observing the diminution at least, if not the extinction, of whatever opposes the full establishment of the blessings of bodily health, vigour and activity, amongst the poor.

It may be proper to inform the subscribers and benefactors, that the Board has lately been induced to send to the press for publication a selection of their Minutes, in order to gratify the repeated enquiries for papers from different towns, where similar establishments were in agitation.

The Board has had the happiness of seeing the opinions delivered by the faculty (whose laudable exertions in support of this Institution can never be sufficiently acknowledged) completely established

by the great diminution of fever in the town and neighbourhood, and by an extinction of the disease during a short period, the House of Recovery having been actually shut up for nine days. Nevertheless, the return of unfavourable seasons must be expected, especially until cleanliness and proper ventilation in the habitations of the poor, and in the Cotton Factories, are more generally attended to. It will therefore give pleasure to all the friends of this Institution to be informed, that the Board hopes soon to be prepared to meet every emergency, as the new House of Recovery will be capable of accommodating 100 patients, and is expected to be ready to be opened in the course of the winter, of which timely notice will be given.

The present state of the Funds of this Charity, compared with former years, affords a good ground of hope, that the time is not far distant, when the Board will be enabled, by the liberality of the public, to reduce the ground rent of the premises in Portland-streets, so as not to have more rent to pay than to receive.

Since the publication of our last Report, the Board has to lament, in common with the public, the great loss sustained by the death of a most valuable member of society, the late S. Marsland, Esq. an active officer and zealous supporter of this establishment.

# R U L E S

FOR THE

*Government of the House of Recovery*

IN

MANCHESTER.

Pas-ed August 1st, 1804.

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1. THE Building erected for the Reception of Patients sick of Fever shall be called THE HOUSE OF RECOVERY.

2. The Government of this Institution shall be vested in Trustees qualified as hereafter mentioned; and the Body of Trustees shall be known and distinguished by the Title of *Trustees of the Manchester House of Recovery*.

3. All Persons whose Benefactions shall amount to Twenty Guineas or upwards, shall be considered as Trustees, in future.

4. Every annual Subscriber of Two Guineas or upwards, shall be a Trustee.

5. The Head or other Officer, for the time being, of any Township, Body-Corporate, or Society, subscribing Five Guineas annually, shall be considered as a Trustee.

6. No Trustee subscribing Two Guineas annually, shall be entitled to have more than one Patient

in the House, upon his own Recommendation, at a time: No Subscriber of One Guinea annually, shall have a right to recommend more than two Patients in the course of a Year.

7. All Persons whose Benefactions shall amount to Ten Guineas, shall be entitled to the same Privileges as annual Subscribers of One Guinea, in future.

8. Such Trustees as do not subscribe to the Infirmary, shall have the right of recommending Patients ill of Fever, to be visited by the Physicians, if within the Districts; or by the Clerk, within certain limits hereafter to be fixed, beyond the Districts: And when Patients, so recommended, are admitted into the House, Medicines and Wine shall be provided for them at the expence of the House of Recovery.

9. All annual Subscriptions shall be deemed due on the first day of June, at which period the Year is supposed to commence; and all *new* Subscriptions shall be considered as taking place on that day, and ending the same day Twelvemonths.

10. A General Board of Trustees shall be held on the first Wednesdays of December and June, and at other periods, on Special Occasions, subject to certain Regulations.

11. A Monthly Board of Trustees, consisting of Three at least, shall be held on the first Wednesday of every Month, to transact Business, in the Board-room of the House of Recovery.



12. The Power of making and repealing Laws; and of electing and removing Officers, shall be vested in the General Board only.

13. At the General Summer Board, all the Officers of the Institution shall be annually appointed; the Accounts of the Treasurer inspected and audited by the Proper Officers; and a Report of the Number of Patients received and discharged within the Year, with a Statement of other particulars belonging to the Charity, shall be submitted to the Board by a Committee to be chosen at the preceding Monthly Board; and which Report, if approved, shall be printed and distributed to every Subscriber.

14. The Monthly Board, Seven Trustees being present, shall have the right of summoning a General Board upon any Special Occasion, giving public notice fourteen days at the least before, and specifying the Business to be transacted at such Meeting.

15. The proceedings of every Board shall be fairly registered, and subscribed by the Chairman.

16. All Elections, if contested, shall be decided by Ballot; and all Questions shall be decided by a majority of the Votes of the Trustees present, which shall be taken by Ballot, if required; but no new Subscriber, shall have a Vote unless he shall have paid his Subscription at least Four Months previous to the holding of such Board.

17. Whenever it shall be proposed to alter or

rescind any old, or to make any new Rule for the Regulation of the House of Recovery, if the proposal be made by a Trustee or Trustees, in person, at the Monthly Board, and a majority of the said Board approve of such proposal, the same shall be advertised in the Manchester Papers at least fourteen days previous to the holding of a General Board. If notice of such intention be given to the Monthly Board, in writing, signed by less than Seven Trustees, the Board shall have the power of receiving or rejecting such proposals; but if signed by Seven or more Trustees, the Board shall cause the same to be advertised as above.

18. The Officers of the Institution shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, House-Vivitor, Auditors, Physicians, and Surgeons.

19. The President, Vice-President, or Treasurer, at every Board, shall take the Chair; or, in their absence, the Trustees present shall appoint one of their own number to be Chairman. The Chairman, if the voices on any Question be equal, shall have a casting Vote. At every General Board, the proceedings of the last General Board, and at every Monthly Board, the proceedings of the last Monthly Board shall be read; and all Laws and Orders made at one General Board, shall be in force and binding till the next General Board, and no longer, unless confirmed by a majority of Trustees present at such subsequent General Board. And all Orders of the

Monthly Board shall continue in force till repealed by some subsequent Monthly or General Board.

20. The Treasurer shall invariably apply the annual and other Subscriptions, in the first place, to the due payment of the Chief rent of the House of Recovery's Premises, or so much thereof as may not, by the means expressed in the Deed of Trust, have been duly satisfied.

21. At the General Board holden in June, the Treasurer shall give Security, to such Persons as the General Board shall appoint, for the due accounting of all such Money as he shall receive for the use of the House of Recovery.

22. The Physicians shall attend the House of Recovery at least three times a week, when they have Patients in the Wards.

23. Each Physician, or Surgeon, whose business or indisposition shall oblige him to be absent, shall engage some other Physician or Surgeon of the Charity to attend for him; and a Book shall be kept at the House of Recovery, in which shall be noted down, by a proper Person appointed by the Monthly Board, those days on which Physicians and Surgeons attend.

24. When a Clerk shall be employed, who shall reside in the House of Recovery, his business shall be to visit Patients, residing beyond the Districts, recommended by the Trustees, in the first instance; to go through the Wards twice a day at least; to

keep the Accounts, and act as Secretary at the periodical Meetings of the Trustees; and to compound Medicines when required.

25. A Monitory Letter shall be sent by the Secretary to all Persons whose Subscriptions are Three Months in arrear, to prevent further delay of payment, all Subscriptions being supposed to continue unless the Subscriber order the contrary by Letter.

26. An Inventory of all the Household Goods and Furniture belonging to the House of Recovery, shall be taken by the Secretary, and signed by the Auditors, annually, at the least fourteen days before the holding of the General Board; the Inventory shall be kept by the Treasurer, and a copy be delivered to the Matron; and the Inventory then taken shall be compared with that of the preceding Year, by the Auditors, as well as with the account of what has been since purchased.

27. A Register shall be kept by the Secretary of the Names of such Patients as are recommended to the House of Recovery immediately, and of such as are brought from beyond the Districts; the Parish or Township to which they belong; their Age and Complaint; when admitted; and when and how discharged.

28. The Matron, Nurses, and Servants of the Charity, shall be appointed and dismissed by the Treasurer; any Appeal on this head to be decided by the Monthly Board.

29. The Matron shall take care of the Household Goods and Furniture, according to the Inventory, and be ready to give an account thereof when required.

30. Patients ill of Fever shall be admitted into the House of Recovery, by an Order written and signed by one of the Physicians to the Institution.

31. Every Patient recommended by a Subscriber to the Infirmary, if a proper case, will be admitted into the House of Recovery according to the mode which has hitherto been practised, viz.—by a Recommendation for a Home-Patient to the Infirmary and Dispensary.

32. Domestic Servants shall be deemed admissible upon Recommendation, and under the same Regulations as Home-patients of the Infirmary, except in case of residence beyond the Districts, when they shall be placed upon the same footing as other persons.

33. A Sum not exceeding Twelve Shillings per Week, shall be paid for the Subsistence of each Domestic Servant, during his or her continuance in the House of Recovery.

34. It is expected, that the expence of removing Patients resident beyond the Districts will be defrayed by the Recommenders, or the Patients' Friends.

35. The appointment of the particular Diet of the Patients, shall be under the regulation of their



respective Physicians or Surgeons; and no other Provisions or Liquors shall be brought into the House to them on any pretence whatsoever.

36. All Deeds, Evidences, and Writings relating to the House of Recovery; or, where the Originals cannot be found, attested Copies thereof shall be preserved, in a Chest provided for that purpose, and secured by Three Locks; the Keys shall be kept by such Persons as shall be appointed at the General Board, annually.

37. No Patient, or Person connected with the House of Recovery, shall at any time presume, on pain of expulsion, to give or take from any Tradesman, Patient, Servant, Stranger, or other Person whomsoever, any Fee, Reward, or Gratuity, directly or indirectly, for any service done, or to be done, on account of the Charity.

38. The Recommendations from Subscribers to this Institution, who are not Subscribers to the Infirmary, shall be put into a Box placed within the House of Recovery, before nine o'clock every morning, and shall be transmitted, without farther delay, to the Physicians of the Districts in which the different Patients may reside.

39. The Wards shall be equally divided amongst the Physicians for the reception of their respective Patients; and the Patients of each Physician shall be kept apart, as much as possible, from those of the other Physician.

*Table of Patients admitted and discharged at the Manchester House of Recovery.*

| Year                                  | Admitted | Discharged<br>Cured | Dead | Remained in the House at<br>the end of the Year |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------|
| From May 1796, to May 1797            | 371      | 324                 | 40   | 7                                               |
| From 31st May 1797, to May 31st, 1798 | 332      | 300                 | 16   | 23                                              |
| 1798—1799                             | 375      | 360                 | 27   | 11                                              |
| 1799—1800                             | 553      | 315                 | 41   | 8                                               |
| 1800—1801                             | 739      | 645                 | 63   | 39                                              |
| 1801—1802                             | 1031     | 956                 | 84   | 30                                              |
| 1802—1803                             | 571      | 539                 | 53   | 9                                               |
| 1803—1804                             | 247      | 215                 | 33   | 8                                               |
| Total                                 | 4019     | 3654                | 357  | *                                               |

\* The number next above, remaining undischarged, is wanting to make the admissions and discharges exactly tally: the admissions and discharges of each year can only be balanced by adding the number of those who remained the year before to the former, and that of those for the present year to the latter.

*Table of Receipts and Disbursements on account of the Manchester House of Recovery.*

| Year      | Annual subscriptions | Payments    | Disbursements | Received for the New Building |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1796—1797 | £ 411 1 6            | £ 1108 9 9  | * £ 1190 3 0½ |                               |
| 1797—1798 | £ 387 19 7           | £ 226 9 6   | £ 1003 1 8    |                               |
| 1798—1799 | £ 397 6 6            | £ 162 14 7½ | £ 694 3 0     |                               |
| 1799—1800 | £ 395 5 6            | £ 164 6 6   | £ 552 10 1½   |                               |
| 1800—1801 | £ 406 19 6           | £ 900 5 6   | † £ 954 14 6½ |                               |
| 1801—1802 | £ 920 17 6           | £ 348 1 2   | ‡ £ 1278 0 3½ | £ 3489 2 6                    |
| 1802—1803 | £ 934 14 0           | £ 346 8 0   | £ 882 3 5     | £ 2154 9 5                    |
| 1803—1804 | £ 870 19 6           | £ 192 6 4   | £ 695 9 10    | £ 884 7 0                     |

\* This sum contains a charge for “alterations in and fitting up the House of Recovery with furniture, &c.” amounting to £508 11s. 11½d.

† The fitting up of a New House for the reception of Patients, this year, increased the disbursements £160 2s. 11d.

‡ Another House fitted up this year, at the expence of £122 12s. 7d.

N. B. None of the expences attending the New Building now used as the House of Recovery are included in the disbursements.

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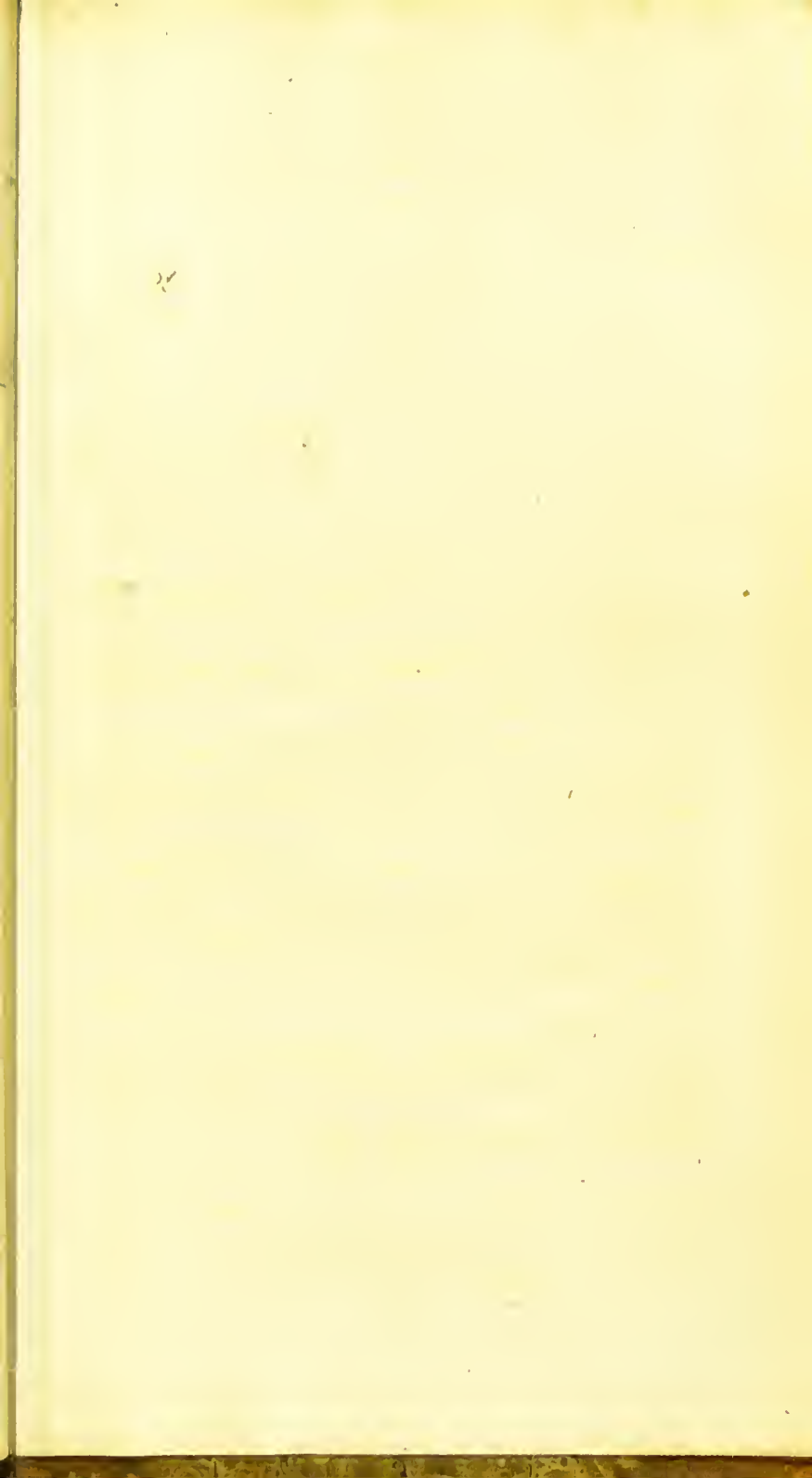


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25 JAN. 1929

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